

## COMPLETE STATISTICS FROM BEGINNING TO SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

### 1010 Total respondents

#### Is ethics reform necessary?

<b>Yes</b>	975	<b>97%</b>
No	35	3%
<b>Sum</b>	1010	

#### Age

0-17	1	0%
18-24	13	2%
25-39	141	16%
<b>40-52</b>	331	<b>38%</b>
<b>53-64</b>	310	<b>36%</b>
65+	70	8%
Sum	866	100%

#### Sex

Female	467	49%
<b>Male</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>51%</b>
Sum	956	100%

#### Race

<b>White</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>7%</b>
Hispanic	2	0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	6	1%
Asian	6	1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0%
Other	16	2%
Sum	873	100%

#### Region

<b>Memphis</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>10%</b>
Jackson	29	3%
West TN	60	6%
<b>Nashville</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>35%</b>
Clarksville	25	3%
<b>Mid TN</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>16%</b>
Tri-Cities	40	4%
Knoxville	66	7%
Chattanooga	55	6%
East TN	62	7%
Not Resident	23	2%
Sum	931	100%

<b>Occupation</b>		
<b>State of Tennessee Employee</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>37%</b>
Accounting/Finance	20	2%
Advertising/PR	3	0%
Arts/Entertainment/Publishing	5	1%
Banking/Mortgage	5	1%
Clerical/Administrative	29	3%
College Student	1	0%
Construction/Facilities	4	0%
Customer Service	4	0%
<b>Education/Training</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5%</b>
Engineering/Architecture	20	2%
Government/Military	28	3%
Government Relations/Lobbyist	2	0%
<b>Healthcare</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>12%</b>
Homemaker	10	1%
Hospitality/Travel	0	0%
Human Resources	15	2%
Insurance	6	1%
Internet/New Media	3	0%
Technology	24	3%
Law Enforcement/Security	15	2%
<b>Legal</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5%</b>
Management Consulting	7	1%
Manufacturing/Operations	11	1%
Marketing	2	0%
Non-Profit/Volunteer	9	1%
Pharmaceutical/Biotech	0	0%
Real Estate	8	1%
Restaurant/Food Service	2	0%
Retail	5	1%
<b>Retired</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>7%</b>
Sales	4	0%
Student	4	0%
Telecommunications	5	1%
Transportation/Logistics	2	0%
<b>Other</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5%</b>
Sum	893	100%

*(It appears that comments via methods other than the Web have been entered into the regular Web form. In the comments listing you can see e-mail transcripts pasted (with To, From, and Subject), as well as phone numbers, which indicate how they were received. They were not entered in the special form, so there is no real count of the different methods.)*

<b>Method</b>		
E-mail	7	87
Phone	0	0
Mail	1	12

## COMPLETE COMMENTS FROM BEGINNING TO SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

To the best of my knowledge, the ethics complaints up to this point were either a. illegal to start with or b. addressed in this year's legislative session. While I do think penalties should be tougher for violators, it is my opinion that this is primarily a PR campaign and is unnecessary for ethical relationships in our government. The baddies will continue to be bad and the goodies are being punished through media attention.

These are my personal views and not necessarily the views of any employer or clients: Reform may be the answer and many people have spoken wisely on that. Disclosure by elected officials apparently has too many holes in it. Beyond that, it may prove that better government and more equitable governance and administration may be largely a matter of "renovation." Here's what I mean: Like all but a handful of states, Tennessee is, despite its renown in e-government innovation, not using technologies as extensively as possible to ensure broad localized or ubiquitous access to State information. E.g., there should be gavel-to-gavel coverage via CCTV, webstreaming and/or cablecast of ALL legislative sessions and committee and subcommittee meetings. There should be roll-call votes and they should be recorded, electronically. We're doing a good job of posting RFPs, purchasing requirements, etc., but we should also post lists of ALL bidders and ALL winners, and all groups that attend bidders conferences, WITH a permanent

we can start by looking into expenditures of county commissioners like William Cotton's abuse of taxpayer money on lavish trips and such. His expenditures are three times the amount of the next highest commissioner in Chattanooga. Please don't allow another politician to abuse taxpayer's.

The General Assembly should make all of its meetings open and all of its records open.

After Tennessee Waltz, we need to be able to see what our "representatives" are up to.

Well past time that TN got serious about ethics in the legislature.

Government by lobbyist has to stop. It appears the lobbyist are running the state with all their campaign contributions.

A shame it took the federal cops to wake the governor up. Strict action needs to be taken on all legislators who are unethical.

Little things like \$29K overtime to a highway cop to be a chauffeur for the Speaker need to be corrected.

We the tax payers are fed up with special interest groups controlling the politicians.

We deserve to know who paid what to whom--when and why!

I BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE WHO RECEIVES A PAYCHECK FROM THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SHOULD BE HELD TO THE SAME ETHICS STANDARDS. THIS INCLUDES APPOINTED AND ELECTED OFFICIALS. WHY SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR, AND COMMISSIONERS, HAVE DIFFERENT ETHICS STANDARDS EVERYDAY STATE EMPLOYEES.

ACTUALLY PUNISH FOR VIOLATIONS

YOU DO THE CRIME THEN YOU DO THE TIME LIKE ANY OTHER CITIZEN PLAN AND SIMPLE.

The governor himself needs to get some ethics. His appointees have been getting favorable treatment that would not be given other state employees -- example, Deputy Governor's intimidation of highway patrol officer in speeding ticket. The Governor has misrepresented and lied about the negotiations around TennCare, testimony given the courts has been sharply different from what the governor has stated publicly. When the governor took office, he established a "new" ethics policy and required agency

officials to sign additional ethics statements - apparently this was all for show.
I think the lobbyist need to be reigned in and any and all monies pertaining to there business need to be accounted for. Not just the meal money. Also there needs to be rules established about committee meetings and such. When the lobbyist sat down at the head table with others that were questioning others regarding ethics and lobbyist reforms and began to ask his own questions and then moan about being treated as a second class citizen. Could I as a citizen have sat down at the same yable. I think not. There contact with our representatives and how they make contact should be controlled.
Campaign finance and lobbying issues need to be addressed. IMO this whole big flap about the harassment investigations is a huge mountain made out of a little mole hill. Documents from those investigations should not be a public record, or it becomes a barrier to employees coming forward in filing a complaint. The feds frown on policies that present barriers to employees asserting their protected rights.
The "good ole boy" network still dominates so much of this country, esp. in Washington and state capitals, and esp. in the south.
Here in Hamblen County, a small section of AJ Highway was recently repaved without needing it and a new roadway is under construction that does not appear to be needed. The mayor is "big on road building" and my guess is that he has friends in the business.
Our local paper, the Citizen Tribune, doesn't write stories that are critical of the town or its long-standing leaders. Neither does it print letters to the editor that might be critical of anyone or anything in the town. The paper's owner and the town leaders all sleep in the same bed and belong to the same country club behind my house.
For three years, we had a local A.M. radio morning talk show that filled this void and gave citizens a voice but a few months ago, the station was sold and it's now completely Hispanic programming. Many of the callers to this program frequently expressed that Hamblen County be
1). No special session on ethics will have any credibility so long as the indicted legislators participate; 2). The governor should support Sen. Ron Ramsey's call for a special session in January to save the state money; 3). The special session must stop legislators from being "outside consultants" and must stop their spouses from being paid lobbyists.
The legislation which failed should be passed. ALL money involving legislators and lobbyist needs to be disclosed. Also the legislature should be put on the same retirement,health-care as the citizens.They are paid by us to represent us and not to be above us!
I was disturbed to hear recent news reports that state lawmakers who are convicted in criminal court of abuse-of-office crimes (including ethics crimes) can still receive their legislative pensions. No wonder our legislature is so corrupt, if lawmakers can continue to reap their most lucrative fringe benefit no matter what kind of behavior they engage in! Abuse of public office is second only to treason as the deepest possible betrayal of public trust, and the severity and suitability of penalties for it should reflect that fact. I would like to see our state enact penalties that would pair criminal-court convictions of abuse of office with removal from office and revocation of all official benefits, including pensions. Legislators facing such penalties might then think twice about engaging in ethics violations or other abuses of their office.
Use common sense. Dont spend money on useless ideals. Be strict on people who break the law. I do not understand the government way of thinking. Especially here in Bradley co.
My only comment relates to an experience I had over 10 years ago. I was working on a project for the Army. It was about 95 degrees out. We had just finished a task and had a break. I offered to buy everyone(4 people) a soft drink. Couldn't do it. Everyone had to buy their own. It seems that when restrictions get to the point of stopping a person from being civil you have gone too far in your restrictions. Please use common sense.
I feel that the law makers, along with all public employees, should not have their record kept secret. I feel that all public employees are employed by the people, and all their actions should be reported to the people, including how their case was disposed of.
Make everyone MUCH more accountable
I do not believe that the committee should be made up of legislators and lobbyists. It should be comprised of more private citizens that have never held office than legislators and definitely no lobbyists.

This is the only way to police our lawmakers. Also, if you are a legislator, you should not be allowed to work for a law office that lobbys them. Kim McMillan should resign from one of them. If she needs a paycheck, like we all do, then work for the lawfirm and resign as a legislator. That is a conflict of interest.

1. Pass ethics laws that do not have LOOPHOLES.

2. Put more private citizens on these committees so we can feel like we truly have a say on what is going on in our government.

3. Kim McMillan needs to choose between being a lawmaker or working for a lobbyist law firm. this to me is a conflict of interest.

4. Make public how much money our law makers are receiving from lobbyists.

5. PLEASE DO NOT LET THE LOBBYISTS RUN OUR GOVERNMENT.

6.. BRING SOME RESPECT BACK TO TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT.

Ethics starts at the top. Is it ethical to remove my 84 year old mother with a TOTAL income of 650.00 a MONTH from TennCare ? You got my vote last time, you won't this time if she's cut from the rolls of TennCare.

I think if anyone violates the Ethics, Laws & Policies that they should lose there job an all there benefits an pension.

I know with Ford thinking money an getting caught along with the others. All of them should have been fired immediately when there boss or the Gov. saw the video's, and they should been arrested an put in jail. Losing all there benefits an pension. They brought this on themselves by taking bribes, if they had been honest upstanding people as they sold thereselves to be when running in the elections they would have never took bribes.

So in my opinion if they lower thereselves as criminal they are no better than anyone else who breaks the laws in the USA/TN., and should be prosecuted to fullest extent of the law in TN.

Lord knows if I had ever got caught stealing from any company I worked for I would of been fired and arrested! So they should too they are no better than anyother citizen when it comes to obeying the Law of the State & the USA Government Officials.

From One Very

Dear Governor Bredesen:

I thin that someone should investigate the Department of Children Services. They have violated so many of my rights, and keep getting away with it. My children have been in custody for 21/2 years because of a one time offense. And a certain DCS Worker who is trying to help out the fostor parent (who happens to be my sister) because they are financially in a bind. This is where alot of our tax dollars are going. I think it is pitifull. My children were not abused or neglected. But because a certain worker was friends with my sister and wanted to help her financially they took my children away and is using state money on new trucks and other things and my children don't see any of it. What is to be done here?

1)Establish an independent Ethics Commission to deal with ethics questions and get the fox out of the henhouse. Self administered ethics obviously does not work with this legislature.

2)Require all elected or appointed members of state government to disclose ANY gift or donation they receive valued in excess of \$25 to the new Ethics Commission (not the elections commission)and make it a FELONY to not do so.

3) Treat campaign fund contributions exactly as we do any other "gift"...after all, they can be bribes or rewards for favors, we just don't call them that. These contributions should also be reportable to the Ethics Commission and the violation of this rule should be a FELONY.

4)Restrict lobbyist access to all state office buildings and personnel to that allowed to any average citizen. Lobbyist freely roaming areas that average citizens can not even visit and having access to elected and appointed members of state government seems unfair and presents an air of impropriety, even if none exists. Why shou

I strongly feel that any money paid to a lobbyist that is attempting to influence any decision made by any official of the government should be made public within 30 days of the payment. Additionally, any public official found to have accepted and payment, directly or indirectly, should be fine and/or jailed depending upon the severity of the situation. Also, a convicted public official should not be allowed to receive any type of pension or remuneration of any type from any governmental body. Also, a convicted public official should never be allowed to run for pubic office in the future. Also, a spouse of an elected official at the state level should be prohibited from working as a lobbyist.

Sir; The revelation in the Tennessean this morning,7/22, that the chairwoman of the Tennessee's House Ethics Committee works for a law firm, Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry immediately throws red flags about ANY credibility of honesty in that committee. She works for lobbyists and there is no way the public will accept that this is not the same old smokey back room politics. It violates your guidelines for conflict of interest.This committee has absolutely got to be squeaky clean, or the citizenry will not accept it. You have an opportunity to "Do the Right Thing". For the sake of all our citizens PLEASE keep the lobbyists out of this committee. The lawyers, too. It is time for the citizens to take back our government. These self-serving state employees need to be reined in. The elected officials must be made to perform honestly and legislate with an eye to lining their friends and/or their own pockets.

We are at a crossroads. We can regain respect for our democratic process or we can sink into

I believe ethics reforms should be patterned in great part on the Tennessee Supreme Court's Rules of Professional Conduct (Rule 8). Also, I believe there should be an independent regulating and enforcement body similar to the Board of Professional Responsibility to enforce these ethics reforms.

Enforcement of any laws and policies no matter who the party being penalized. Stronger laws without follow through when violations occur does nothing to solve the problem and weakens the view that most of our citizens have for government.

**PAY STATE EMPLOYEES MORE! IF SOMEONE FEELS THEY ARE UNDERPAID THE LOYALTY FACTOR DECLINES SIGNIFICANTLY**

Ethics laws can be made stronger by requiring a COURSE for anyone become a legislator, everyone lobbyist or legislator should be made to constantly review ethics violations.

As a State employee, I completely agree with ethics reform, espcecially in light of recent events in Tennessee. I believe a program should be developed where each State employee and Legislator should be required to attend an intial ethics class for a minimum of eight hours and then attend recurring traning each year of a minimum of four hours. There should be no reason to skip this training and failure to attend should lead to discipliinary including but no limited to termination or removal from office.

Any state employee or state official that violates any ethic law should be dismissed as a state employee or an official without rehire privileges.

Unfortunately Tennessee is not the only place that ethics needs to be looked at, our US Congress needs to be overhauled badly. These people think that their title allows them to do as they please whether it is right or wrong. Also, we most definitely need to put our Lord's name back in our government instead of removing it. If it wasn't for Him our country would be in a worse shape than it is. We need God in our lives no matter what out legislators and the ACLU believe, because without Him ARE NOTHING.

Put the focus on the businesses, etc., buying influence, not who they hire to lobby for them. Require that anyone hiring someone to lobby for them to disclose the amount of money they have spent to get a bill passed, regulation changed, etc. The real question that must be answered is who's spending how much to get what. Knowing what individual lobbyists get paid doesn't answer that question.

Pay the legislators a decent salary (about \$70,000 + COLA increases) and don't allow them to earn any other money.

well you passed a bill no doing business with state,then you turn around and passed a bill,that unless it involved the family,now do you see that there is something wrong with this if not you need for someone else to look at this issue,without it beening someone to spend our tax dollars on,someone with reliable judgement

Governor,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. I strongly believe that through our ethics laws we must clearly set out our expectations and be prepared to respond proactively when a violation occurs. Our standards should be nothing less than what is necessary to keep us above reproach in our activities.
Term limits; TIGHT Controls on lobbying activities- no money, no gifts, no undue influence. Everyone has the right to propose legislation but no one group should have a GREAT advantage over an average TN voter. Campaign money should be used to run a campaign not buy football tickets, and new tires. The ETHICS committee must take over-sight seriously, in order to be considered serious. I would look to Florida that has an AG type person in charge of policing elected state officials.
I would like to see all lobbying stopped. The State Representatives need to be more in touch with the people of this state and what they need, instead of what some special interest group thinks they need.
Thank you for making our law makers accountable for their actions.
Along with the Citizens Advisory Group on Ethics (Did anyone realize the acronym for that is CAGE?)I can sum up what else is needed for honest government in two words, "Term Limits."
I feel like the citizens of Tennessee have every right to know how the people at the capital is spending tax payers money. Being a state employee for 33 years it is essential the citizens can have faith and confidence in the Legislative people without worrying about someone being crooked. If the ethics policies are changed and adhered to, the public might once again have faith in the government.
I think ethics reform is very important and necessary in state government.
You have my full support!
In relation to Respectful Workplace policy, you have to spread the word to all employees and to the media, that completion of the Respectful Workplace training classes are MANDATORY.
Phil,
Call a special session to work over new ethics legislation. It is not fair that the people we send to Nashville can suddenly get a wiff of the gass that must come off the Cumberland river and suddenly think they are above the law and better than us.
Give 'em hell, Phil!
As a state employee I hope the ethics effort will be effective in ridding the state of corruption but cautious and not harm employees. Many of us out here in the trenches have second jobs because our state pay doesn't cover all our needs. I see no problem in having a second job if it doesn't conflict with the job or department you represent. If reform were to come stating that we couldn't have second jobs many of us would have to leave our state jobs. So I hope you clean things up and expecially deal with the elected officials who have cheated us and embarassed us all. But be considerate of those of us who have second jobs that are no conflict what-so-ever with our state responsibilities.
from the highest state employee who is seen by the media etc, to the lowest who is seen by our clients...they need to be held accountable for everything from casework, mileage, timesheets, location....that they are where they say they are. and it should be enforced!!!
The things that have been going on with former Senator Ford and some of his colleagues is appalling and I can't understand why the so-called leaders and law makers can expect taxpayers to believe or trust anything they say to the public. There are plenty of honest, hard working people in Tennessee that I believe have much greater ethical values and morals.
Dear Governor Bredesen,
Thank you for your interest in Tennesseans' opinions. I voted for you and am pleased thus far with your job in office.
I believe that our politicians are put in office to represent us and our interests as citizens. It is a relationship based on trust, which in turn fosters either confidence or doubt. I do not expect perfection, but I do expect effort and honesty. It saddens me when I feel that my interests, rights, taxes, etc. may be affected by a lobbyist with money in the capital. I work full time and cannot hang around Nashville... and I don't have money to push my agenda to our elected officials. But I do pay taxes into our collective state coffer, and I thus appreciate being heard. Government can be managed like a business to a certain

point... but government, unlike a business, must factor in the human element. It is time for politicians across the state and America to start from the ground and work up, from an ethical angle, in order to better serve citizens without bein
I believe that all people should be held to the same standard, no matter what there position or title. I appreciate your efforts so far in this regard.
I feel lawmakers should be held accountable for their actions. They are the ones that ran for office and did not mind being in the spotlight during election year. They should not mind being held to a higher standard during the off election years.
Dear Gov. Bredesen;
I'm not so sure that it's reform of ethics that's necessary as is just keeping ethics before those who make our laws and serve in our govt. You are careful to model good ethical behavior, but that is not, unfortunately, the case with everyone in the public domain. My suggestion would be to make every effort, through the media,etc. to bring attn to what constitutes good ethical behavior. At the same time, point out what constitutes abuse of ethics.
Thank you for the opportunity to share ideas on this significant topic which affects us all.
require immediate dismissal/sanctions/default of pay/loss of retirement (all of the above) if found to be in violation of any existing/future law(s) or policy. Language currently contained in(i.e., oath of office/laws/policies) is not sufficient to curtail abuse without extreme/immediate penalties.
Ethics is more than just rules it is about a process. Tennesseans have a role to play in this by voting. Fewer and fewer Tennesseans actually vote in elections and we are surprised that public officials don't represent our interests.
The best ethics reform is voting. Until we excercise our own rights we have nothing to whine about.
I have none.
I think drug testing would improve the state gov as a whole. I work for The St of Tn and have seen other employees using drugs and know of others. If it is hapening down here where Im at... why not higher up and even in your ethics committee. Drugs are a bad part of our world and we dont need that kind of influence in our State workers. Unfortunately close to half the state employees would not be working here if drug testing was required but it is necessary especially where I work because we handle very important information and all checks printed for child support all the way to retirement checks. This may not be what you are looking at for your ethics but I think it is important.
Thanks
It is a sad day when we must impose laws to control our lawmakers but I feel that it is now necessary. I would like to see politics return to what our founders envisioned, for everyday people to take time from their lives to serve in the legislative body. I see no need for "career" politicians. The result is the headlines that we have read in the Tennessean.
Stronger penalties (i.e., loss of their 'gravy train' retirement-let them try living on state employees retirement plan), more accountability. I commend Senator Kurita for her work on ethics reform.
throw the bums out. We need new legislators. These guys don't have any ethics.
Need tighter control of lobbying activities--disclosure of activities and who they represent. Working for companies that deal with the state and also working for the state (like Senator Ford) should be forbidden. Legislators and state employees who are convicted of ethics violations and removed from office should forfeit any pension benefits! Employees and legislators who are convicted should be immediately removed from their positions with no severence pay or pension benefits. We have to make it NOT WORTHWHILE to cheat and lie and violate the public trust. Morals matter and character counts. Campaign disclosure needs to be stricter and more open to the public. It needs to be easier for the public to find out who is buying their legislator's time and attention. Ethics violations must not be tolerated!
I feel that in addition to looking at strengthening the laws pertaining to ethics violations, it is imperative that we also intensify the penalties for violations. A slap on the hand doesn't go far when some officials have milked the system for hundreds if not thousands of dollars. This should apply to local and well as state government. Control on lobbying activities should also be stenghtened, enforced and violators prosecuted in order to hold down costs, especially that of prescription drugs and other healthcare costs. I



am sure that it is hard to strengthen these laws when the very people that vote on them, may be the guiltiest ones of all. Hats off to all of those involved in Tennessee Waltz - it was long overdue and was a much needed step forward to "clean up" government. I am sure that there are more out there - so please don't stop the battle. I do wonder about the disclosure requirements and their accuracy and how much is done with them after they are completed. Thanks again to Governor Brede
by requiring full disclosure of lobbyist contact and agendas and of campaign fund and their sources
I would hope some of what the Advisory Group will look into will also cover ethics in the workplace, both in State offices and Legislative staff workers. The areas you have charged them with are the ones that need the most work, however for the moral of the employees, the 2 mentioned above need to be looked at, also.
I don't have a lot of knowledge as to what the current laws are for ethics violations, but in light of the recent indictments of our lawmakers I'm sure there must be some needed reform to what's already in place.
I don't think campaign contributions should be cash and should be reported at least monthly if not sooner. Members of the legislature should not be getting money from companies that they are passing legislation on. It is horrible to think of all the money that has gone into the pocket of a legislator instead of to TennCare to help people that really need healthcare. Campaign Finance reform should level the playing field. Politicians have to spend too much time raising money because of the high cost of campaigning. They should be able to run a campaign about issues and not about who will give them money, that might obligate them to someone or a group. This issue is very important and I hope real solutions can bring about change. Being a government servant should be just that and not about serving yourself by getting as much money as you can get.
More scrutiny of Lobbyists and special interest groups
stricter compliance enforcement and bigger penalties would help.
Begin to streamline those guidelines for person interested in serving the State through the legislature. Be sure to identify the weaknesses of the state and continue appointing those persons that have the skill set necessary to complete your goals and objectives.
I am disgusted that elected officials can abuse their position for personal gain and continue to receive pensions at the tax payer's expense!! If the pensions cannot be revoked, is there a way to sieze the moneys illegally obtained?
when laws are made and then violated you should pay the penalty. you can lose your job or go to jail. when law is clear there should be penaly for breaking. there should be a committee or such over this.
Lobbying activities in Tennessee is out of control. Our state legislatures do not represent the people. They pass laws that does not help the citizens of Tennessee. An example of this is predatory lending. Legislatures have allowed companies to set business in economic stressed areas charging large interest rates on loans of poor people. Those pay day lending companies are not located in high income areas only in poor aras. There should be investigation conducted on all public officials regarding interest in these companies. We don't want Tennessee to continue to be a breeding ground for greed.
I'm not sure whether we need tougher ethics laws or whether the current ones need to be better enforced, but this issue certainly needs to be looked at.
I do not know if this is a related topic or not, but I feel it is unethical for the State to hire someone in to the same job making more money than you do; and that person has less experience, both as a State employee and overall experience in the field that you are employed. It has happened to me.
In protecting public health and in protecting the environment, objective scientific evidence should outweigh special interest's desires and greed. The job of a technical professional is hard enough already.
It is obvious to the average citizen that the Tennessee government is saturated with crooks. From the Tennessee Waltz Sting to Shreddergate and Tenn Care. Good old boys protecting each other. You should all resign. Our state is the laughing stock of the country. It is only a matter of time before you are all caught. Tennessee is living up to its backwoods reputation.
Please be sure that no one on any committee is the subject of an investigation for ethics violations. We don't want our state government run like the United Nations. Is there a way to force members of the legislature to abstain from voting on such issues if they are under investigation? Would we be able to have a quorum if they all abstained?
It is impossible to legislate morals, thus impossible to make an unethical person, ethical. However, taxpayers of Tennessee should be assured that investigations will be ongoing to disclose all those that

are there to self serve only.

1. I think it is ridiculous to require lobbyists to disclose how much money they make - that is personal information...they are not receiving state dollars. The only concern would be if they are doing their job unethically and public officials/money is involved.

2. I think that if some lobbyists or legislators are doing business under the table or for personal benefit, there are probably several people in the know about it. You should have some way for people "in the know" about what's going on up on the Hill to anonymously provide tips. The State should have some sort of investigative task force who could look into these allegations.

Depending on how serious it is, I would have them do community service work (free of charge), pay a HUGE fine and/or have them resign their position. They are not worthy of the position they were elected to fill if they can be bribed or get something for nothing when you have people in this State that are poor, working part-time and still can't get Tenn care because they make too much money. Nor can they get insurance because of their medical history. It just does not make sense.

I firmly believe that ethics cannot be "taught" to an adult. His/her parents either instilled ethics and character in them as they matured, or they didn't. In my opinion, the exception to this is when unethical individuals enter military service at an early age and receives liberal doses of self-discipline, which evolves into self-worth and honesty. All we as law abiding citizens can do is keep a vigilant eye on our leaders and, as one body, act swiftly to remove them from positions of public trust when evidence (an indicment works nice for me) of unethical conduct surfaces. I'll leave you with a quote passed to me at a very young age: "Character is what you are in the dark."

I do not think ethics is a matter of making new laws. To me it is a matter of simply treating others as you would like to be treated. I fear that we have two generations in place that do not understand this, or desire to abide by it. Ethics, is a matter of education. Teaching others the value of life and respect for self and others.

Thank you for your time.

PEOPLE IN GENERAL HAVE SUCH A POOR OPINION OF STATE EMPLOYEES THAT IT IS VITAL THAT ETHICS ARE REFORMED. STATE EMPLOYEES NO MATTER WHAT THEIR POSITION SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS WHETHER IT BE IN HARASSMENT, ABUSE OF WORKING HOURS ECT. THOSE IN ELECTED POSITIONS HAVE AN EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC. THEY ARE ELECTED BY TRUST AND SHOULD BE WILLING, IF NOT MADE, TO DISCLOSE ALL OF THEIR ACTIVITY CONCERNING THE STATE.

I think that the companies that participate and obtain the state contracts unlawfully should have very strict penalties. "No slap on the wrist for these companies."

Have watchdog groups to provide checks and balances which would expose ethics violations. Strengthen sanctions and punishment for ethics violations. Make the punishment and sanctions something that sends the signal to elected officials and to the citizens that such behavior will not be tolerated. Actively look for people who are engaging in activities that are a conflict of interest to their elected positions and make them seriously regret having betrayed the trust of the citizens of TN. You can make a law but if it is not enforced, it is useless. Enforce them with stiff penalties. They should lose financially and they should be incarcerated. Public officials are to be held to a higher standard than regular folk. The old thing of "he is just doing what the others do , but he got caught", should be made a thing of the past. The excuse that "he is just a regular person, he makes mistakes".. should be shown up for the poor argument that it is. If an elected official cheats, that person should be impeach

Need much better Controls on out-of-control lobbyists and objective unequivocal standards for legislators.

FWIW, I think all this media hype about sexual harassment investigations is simply that...a bunch of media hype that is way out of proportion! Sexual harassment investigations must be discreet and documents protected or else. The "or else" is, if employees cannot feel that their privacy is protected under very adverse circumstances (if harassment is occurring) and cannot file a complaint through channels, they will either suffer needlessly, quit, or file a complaint with the feds instead. Since the feds take a very dim view of harassment policies that discourage employees from asserting their protected rights, we will eventually get sued and are going to spend a lot more of the taxpayer's money until we are forced to sign a consent agreement that removes these documents from public scrutiny!

All Contributions received by any legislator (campaign finance, meals, trips, gifts, jobs for family members, etc.) should be disclosed and reported publically. These individuals are elected to represent the people; not just contributors to their campaign. An average citizen has no way to get the ear of the legislators because most only listen to money.

I have to answer each minute of every day for what I do as a state employee. What I SAY, DO, ACT reflects upon myself, the state and other workers. Just because someone has a "title" and a larger salary, it still means somewhere, somehow they are accountable to someone. As others are so fond of telling me "we pay your salary" well we elected some of them, pay towards their salary and retirement. They should answer to an ethics committee for violations. I can assure you, our public loves to call state officials for one of "our" infractions. Ethics reform should be a "must". Make them aware of what they lose, and how they harm everyone. Ethics can come only from within, unless, they are forced OR must answer directly to their peers. Sometimes the problem comes from peers doing the same, and thinking if YOU don't tell, I won't tell. Make them accountable, if they serve on the ethics committee, then that should be higher violation. Each day of my job, I try hard to treat each

The people of Tennessee deserve legislators they can respect, not just for what they do but for how they do it. I'd like to know that I can trust my legislators to fight for the majority, not the vested interests, regardless of who pays for their campaigns. I'd like to control lobbying. I believe that those who ask to become lawmakers and then break the law should be punished to the fullest possible extent. Public service is just that, serving the public. No one should run for office until he is ready to serve others.

Remove people who are in their positions for extensive time limit, Train young people underneath to take more responsibility at their work so you are not dependent on few people who will never be replaced.

Check all the fast promoted people

to see if they are exceptional people or got an exceptional promotion. family members shouldn't be working in the same office.

Don't be afraid to investigate state facilities such as , the department of human services. Is it ethical to hire a person for a specific position, then refuse to give them the starting pay for that position. Bring Ethics to Knoxville.

As a thirty year state employee, I can say that I am proud of my work and my profession, but I am not always proud to say that I "work for Tennessee." Over the years I have witnessed unethical (and immoral) behavior not only on the part of my fellow employees but their supervisors as well. Too often it is management setting the bad example and the employees following. Yet when abuses are reported to supervisors, the response is more often to punish the messenger than correct the abuse. So, for starters there should be a state personnel policy (or statute) to protect "whistleblowers" as there evidently is in the federal system and the private sector. Also a more independent branch of government like the comptroller's office should be charged with investigating reports of abuse. Dare I say that probably more positions ought to be made executive positions thus making it possible to prosecute abusers with more haste than through the civil service process. I commend Governor Bredesen on the job he is doing and hi

There needs to be some type of disciplinary action taken when people violate ethics laws.

As a state employee responsible and accountable to the taxpayers of

Tennessee, I consider elected officials equally if not more responsible. Lobbying should be forbidden when such compromises the

ability of an elected official to be fair and open-minded. I suppose campaign and finance disclosure should be used to ensure that financial supporters are not buying the elected officials votes...also, to ensure

illegal organizations are not involved in financing campaigns. Laws should be enacted to define criminal activities so that penalties imposed could be treated by the appropriate body...either

law enforcement or the general assembly. Suspension should be

in order when a person is charged

with a crime connected with his employment....just as a policeman is suspended with pay for such.

A code of conduct should be developed so that ethical violations can be dealt with

and the consequences known up front....not wait until they happen. The range of penalties

should be established by government appoint

I think the disclosure requirements should be very strict with legal charges/prosecution occurring instead of monetary fines. I also think the amount of money allowed for lobbying should be very minimal with media "trashing" of other candidates prohibited.

Most state employees carry out their every day duties with the upmost respect for ethics from my experience with the state.

We as state employees are embarrassed by the actions of our legislature. I would hope the future would present a more professional and ethical image for our state from the legislature that gave us the road kill bill. How about an audit each month of the individual members of the legislature. a review of their appointments, and any income from any source. or better yet how about sending the legislature to ethics courses telling them what is not legal then when they violate have a stiff penalty including jail time. lets hold them to the same standard as a regular state employee would be held.

If you want to hold an office or you are appointed in an executive service position, you should expect your business activities to be viewed by others. Lobbying activities should be scaled back. No state employee or elected official should be allowed to lobby for two years after they leave their position. They should not be allowed into areas that regular citizens can't reach. They should not be allowed in chambers when a vote is taking place. Right now, the state legislature is a puppet and the lobbyists control the strings. A separate committee should handle ethics penalties. The house and senate cannot be trusted to police themselves.

Don't leave it up to the legislators to decide what is ethical and what is not. Let the people that are not influenced by "politics" to vote on the issues.

As a state employee I feel that I have code of ethics to live by as I

represent the state in my job. I feel that elected officials have to live up to a higher standard as we have elected them to represent us, and any shame they bring to themselves with their actions brings shame to the people who trusted them enough to vote for them

The "good ole boys" need to find a new home. What is good for one should be for all. The more we find out about the government working the more frightened I become knowing that everything hinges on who you know--not whether you broke the law or not, or you're guilty or innocent. The elected officials should have to follow the same laws as John Q. Citizen.

Good luck in changing the Ethics regarding the behavior of our elected officials. I've been around too long to think that there can be a significant change anywhere in government.

It would help if our legislators would pass a strong ethics bill, instead of worrying if it would make some of their buddies mad at them, thus impacting their wallet.

This thing with Ford and the others is just the tip of the iceberg. . . at least that's what most people think, including myself.

That is the reason most people don't have the confidence in their elected officials.

The pictures of them partying it up in some place that most people could never hope to go, paid for by lobbyists, makes most people do a slow burn. And some of us will remember that when election day rolls around.

Governor Sir, I am not qualified to offer any reform ideas, but I agree that reform is overdue. The shenanigans of some lawmakers have blemished our state and safeguards against such behavior need implementing. I applaud your efforts and commend your tenure as our Governor.

We should actually enforce any current laws and hold individuals accountable for their actions. Legislators should have to disclose all income and all contributions they receive. They should maybe

even be audited each year.
Get rid of the violators of the ethics laws with zero tolerance! Set a precedent using these people. Make laws convicting them harsher, i.e. taking away benefits.
Good leadership starts at the top. From there, good appointments need to be made, not just for politics' sake, but because the appointee is RIGHT for his/her job, and he has earned and wants to continue to earn respect for the job they serve in. I realize that elected officials, such as legislators, are out of that realm, but there needs to be some accountability there as well. They are accountable to the state, and the people of the state who put them there, but very few of them remember that once elected. As for the appointments made from the Governor's Office, I just feel like politics should not play as prominent a role as it ALWAYS does. There have been appointments made in the past that have ended badly, and people who knew the individual prior, are not surprised because the same kind of things had followed that person from job to job. And people knew about it, and wondered why that person got to where he/she was to begin with. That sort of thing should just not happen. We need solid, respectable, ethical
Having a panel of citizens to review suspect ethic violations and submit findings to legislative ethics panel. Fines for ethics violations should be heavy and come from private funds. Legislative ethic violators should be identified and posted to a web site along with violation.
Too many laws are decided on what I consider favoritism. Just like a parent choosing her child before another child. The Governor should show no favoritism and continue what he is doing. Laws should be made for the people just like it always has been, IN GOD WE TRUST. In other words WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? I think lobbying is done and excepted, a form of bribery. The Governor is on the right track to stop that, its only fair. Keep up the good work. I stand behind good morals, and bribery is not a good moral.
Anytime an elected official's only explanation for how he is spending taxpayers money is, "that's the way it has always been done"; crying out it time for change. Other areas of concern to me are as follows:  1. Lobbyist should have to disclose what they are paid.  2. Lobbyist should have to disclose how much they are giving to individual legislators.  3. Lobbyist should not be able to introduce legislation to legislators without some involvement from the average taxpaying citizens/ are another grassroots non-partisan input.  4. Ex-legislators and high ranking appointed/civil servant employees should not be allowed to participate or register as a lobbyist for 5 years from the time they leave their government position.  5. Appointed government official should not be treated any differently in their pay schedules, an investigation for misconduct or qualifications for their individual positions. Appointed/ Exempted/Non-civil service should be treated the same as civil servants. Both are public servants and should be well
Ethical behavior within our government should be a "no-brainer." State employers are expected to perform their jobs with possible punishment and termination as a result of unethical behavior. Should not the legislators perform at a higher level? Why do they have so much trouble agreeing on an ethical standard for themselves? What happens to Right and Wrong? I believe they should be held accountable for their actions and removed from office and/or jailed as a result. As long as "the business as usual" syndrome continues to survive, the faith and trust in our leaders will never flourish.
As a State employee, I feel as if one employee should be the same as the next. The same ethics policy should cover all employees equally, no matter the position or classification. There is currently a resentment between the have/have nots that it is counterproductive to the teamwork environment that should exist. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
I don't know how to improve the laws. I'm a state employee and disappointed in how some lawmakers have conducted themselves. It gives us all a black eye. You just expect elected officials to not be greedy and dishonest and think of themselves only.
Dear Governor,  I do not think reform is necessary, I believe that Tenn. just as other enterprising states should enforce the policies and procedures around lobbying and other legislative activities. I remember a short time ago when TVA was blasted on the news about spending within their organization. I have never been able to

get involved in lobbying because the avenues have been limited for young intelligent individuals that have the communities best interest in mind. All I can say, if a persons heart is not in the right place then your decisions will not positively affect others. We are here to help each other. I think there should be more initiatives to open the field so those who are not connected can not just attend public functions but be productive in the daily debates surrounding our communities. I was always taught to redirect my energies to uplift my community so that I can be proud of where I live. And I say t

I've been in state government thirty one years. The ethic violations have been going on for years. There has always been a small, core group that is willing to sell out for money and more power. I'm glad this has been brought to light. Taking quick, definitive action by forming the Citizen Advisory Group on Ethics is a good step toward building the confidence of Tennesseans in their leaders and government.

1. Put in place a real "Whistle Blower Protection" law, without this, very few if any will report any thing.

2. In law define, Malfeasance, Nonfeasance, Misfeasance and Nepotism, Cronyism with standards which truly prevent abuse.

3. Establish mandatory term limits.

The recent events involving State Officials is indeed troubling. I do not think of myself as naive, but I believe that the majority of Tennessee's officials are hard working honest people. However, arguing this point with a more cynical person that believes all lawmakers and politicians are dishonest is difficult under the current atmosphere.

I would be hesitant to write new laws, because we are willing to enforce the existing ones. It took a Federal investigation to round up a State Senator that has been running amok for three decades.

Can we police our own? Or is it going to take Federal involvement everytime?

Prohibit legislators from voting on any legislation that will directly benefit a company for which they work or are consulting. With a part time legislature the representatives have to be able to earn a living, but they should be prohibited from using their public office to further the interests of their employers. A person who does that is called a lobbyist.

Sunshine is a great disinfectant. Require complete disclosure of anything over a few thousand dollars.

Remove the exceptions and built-in safety valves from existing legislation.

An ethics law can't stop a thief or criminal. Recent events are already illegal and will remain so, but the lax and insulated culture at legislative plaza helps people fool themselves into believing that "everybody does it" so it must be okay.

We need a review committee that is not under any pressure from the legislature. Campaign finance should be used finance campaigns.

Elected officials should resign to run for another office.

SOME OF OUR MOST "LIBERAL" STATES SUCH AS NEW YORK AND MASSACHUSETTS HAVE OUTLAWED THE USE OF 'CELL PHONE' BEING USED IN MOTOR VEHICLES WHILE THEY ARE IN MOTION. AND YET, IN TENNESSEE ANY SUCH PROPOSAL NEVER EVEN MAKES IT OUT OF COMMITTEE..EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOW A PROVEN STATISTICAL FACT THAT SERIOUS ACCIDENTS INCREASE WHEN CELL PHONES ARE IN USE WHILE DRIVING... OBVIOUSLY, LOBBYISTS FOR THE CELL PHONE COMPANIES MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT SINCE THEY HAVE FRIENDS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WHO HAVE REPEATEDLY PREVENTED ANY SUCH LAW FROM BEING ENACTED. ITS TIME TO PUT POLITICS ASIDE AND DO THE RIGHT THING.... LIVES ARE AT STAKE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! STAKE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ethics laws are useless if unethical people write them and enforce them. The law doesn't matter; the people carrying them out do! In other words, it doesn't matter what the law says, if the persons in question aren't obeying them now, why will they obey stricter laws? So rather than change the laws, change the people.

We need government officials who embrace the ideals of our state. If we have that, we won't have need of stronger laws. Find men and women in leadership who 1. stand up for what's right and what they believe in, 2. don't follow the status quo of the clique of current political circles, and 3. aren't afraid to disagree with popular opinion. What you need, Governor Bredesen, are people with guts. Yes, guts. The thing that used to make America strong. The very thing we've lost in this generation.

In other words, find men and women of integrity who don't bend to the 'politically correct' climate of today's world.

So, to fix the real problem root out the rats. Change the law s

First of all, I think that this committee or "advisory group" should be comprised of people who are "common people" and not your political cronies. Also included in this mix should be a few "low-level" state employees. And they should not be "friends" or acquaintances of any of your "high-level" friends or political cronies. Because they should all be accountable to the average Tennessean, the ones that drive the school buses, the ones that clean the facilities, the ones that pick up litter off the highways or who cut the grass in the median, they should be people who go to work everyday and live from paycheck to paycheck. They should NOT be corporate types, attorneys, OR anyone with a political agenda. All of the "governing bodies" of Tennessee seem to have forgotten that in the end the common people are the ones that we ALL work for. The single mother who cannot get child support from a deadbeat dad, or the mother and father who have to work 2 jobs each just to survive, or the elderly who only have soci

It is my opinion that all elected officials should be required to disclose all activities whereby the official is paid for his vote on any decision that he may make.

I believe that all legislators that have violated the law & are convicted of a unlawful crime, should be dismissed from the General Assembly, regardless of how important or powerful, they are or whether they have been grandfathered in by a law that protects their pension. If disclosures have not been submitted, then they should be fined immediately. Lobbyists should be controlled by laws and campaign funds should not be used for anything, but financing a campaign. After they leave office, the money they have left over should go to the party of which they belong, for future elections. Time to clean-up the Legislature and restore Tennessean's trust.

The influence of lobbying upon legislation is excessive, to the point of being the tail wagging the dog. Enforcement of present laws must be made a priority. Ordinary citizens should be encouraged to participate on equal footing as paid lobbyists, through innovative processes. Paid lobbyists should submit detailed and comprehensive disclosures of their clients and all funds expended, including meals and entertainment, to further legislative agenda. Politicians must be required to forego expensive gifts, meals, entertainment and only accept reasonable campaign contributions if Tennessee is to have a truly representative government.

Dear Governor

I have played golf with too many State and local representative to know that you will be fighting an up hill battle. There are two people in State government that I will be most disappointed in should they fail the ethics test. One is me and the other is the man at the top. I know I have passed the test, and you have shown me that you have also. I believe you are doing a great job leading our great State of Tennessee. Thank you for your service.

Government officials should be required to meet a minimum of the same ethics standards as businesses. I'm appalled by the recent scandal. Tobacco use in the capital is another discrepancy that is ethics related. It seems that ordinary citizens could set standards in a more equitable, decent way than those government officials who should be held to a higher standard.

Elected officials should not also serve as lobbyists, and neither should their spouses (eliminate conflict of interest). Elected officials should be required to disclose all financial records and campaign finance records. Elected officials should be required to reside in the area they represent. Elected officials who are convicted of crimes should not be eligible to receive pension.

I am a state employee and it infuriates me that I do not receive travel expenses up front when I am required to travel for my job (incidentally, I make < 35,000/year) and we have elected officials who take money from lobbyist's to pay for trips etc. Elected officials seem to have no difficulty being reimbursed by

the state for their travel expenses...even though they may only travel 5 miles from their home to reach Capital Hill, but I do. This is very wrong. Even though I am a state employee, I still pay taxes, too. I am extremely embarrassed by the conduct of our state officials. It is an embarrassment to our state.

It is shameful that ethics law even has to be considered. Elected officials are looked to as examples, and their behavior, both professionally and personally, should be beyond reproach. If an elected official is caught doing anything that approaches being unethical, (s)he should be put out of office immediately with no chance to return.

As a DHS employee we have a code of ethics we operate by and are expected to follow. If I violate these rules I will be terminated. I know for a fact that staff have been terminated. Why should our Legislature not be held to the same standards as the people they represent. If we continue to let the Legislature vote for the rules they want on ethics then we will continue to have the same lax rules we have now. Thank you.

With everything that has taken place recently upon Capitol Hill and the Tennessee Waltz bunch, the ethics policy in State Government definately needs to be rethought. Those individuals that are found guilty of ethic issues should most certainly be removed from office post-haste and should never be allowed the privledge of drawing any funding from the State's resources. It's not fair to the rest of State employees as we are not afforded the same package. I for one have worked for 20 years with the State of Tennessee and have yet to make even \$30,000 a year.

Respectfully,

If they were State workers they would have been asked to resign or they would have been dismissed. I know that they are not considered to be guilty until they are covicted of a crime. However, the ones' charged who worked on the hill shed a bad light on Tennessee and their behavior should not be condoned. Have they heard of ethical behavior, honesty, and doing right by the people they represent. I think it is appalling.

I agree with you that changes needs to be made and we need ethics reform.

ENFORCE THEM... THE STATE IS THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE COUNTRY RIGHT NOW. ALL STATE EMPLOYEES SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED ETHICS TRAINING TIME FOR WATCHING THE SENATOR FORD AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES SCANDALL ON TV. FROM A REPUBLICAN TO A DEMOCRAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT BY THE STATE WITH THE TENN CARE PROGRAM, IT'S THE BLEEDING HEART LIBERALS THAT ARE HOLDING YOU BACK. PLEASE KEEP UP THE FIGHT, THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX PAYER CAN'T CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ALL THE HANDS OUT ORGANIZATIONS. ANOTHER AREA OF GREAT CONCERN IS THE LARGE NUMBER OF ILLEGALS IN THE STATE. GRANTED SOME OF THEM ARE VERY HARD WORKERS BUT HOW CAN THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET SUPPORT ALL THE HANDOUT'S TO THEM AND THE FEAR OF TERRORISM.

1) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

3) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

4) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the se

Why do we need lobbyist?

The canidate must submit a disclosure of all money received.



Those who write the ethics laws should write them in such away that it is clear to the people running for an office or ones that have been appointed, that their sole purpose is to represent the people. No personal gains should be sought, and their own personal desires for a particular outcome should never be followed through, only the desires of the people they represent.

The lawmaker's must have clear and consistent guidelines to avoid conflicts of interest. The public loses confidence in public servants when they are granted what seems to be special privelege because of their positions. The state of TN needs to foster the attitude that lawmakers are servants of the public and that public service is a privelege not an excuse to rob the public.

1. Lobbyist should be restricted to one specific room in Legislative Plaza. They seem to have free access to the Legislature and Capitol and this is not right!

2. Lobbyist should be forbidden from giving anything to any legislator - no gifts and especially no money. (No campaign contributions period!!!! As far as I am concerned this is buying the Legislators vote!)

3. Legislators should not be allowed to have access to any campaign funds. All campaign contributions should go into a bank account that the funds are handled by someone that is not associated with any legislator - a private CPA.

4. All Legislators and public officials must show complete financial information for them and their spouses.

5. Any Legislator in violation on any type of Ethics law/policy should be removed from office and all benefits stopped - no retirement or insurance for the rest of their lives.

6. No Legislator shall be married to a Lobbyist. If the spouse is a Lobbyist the Legislator should have to resign imme

Ethics is like many internal control functions, if one individual wishes to break the rules, it is hard. If more than one wish to break the rule, it is hard to stop them. Subjecting those who break the rules to a just set of punishments that cannot be overridden by others who know/like the individuals would help.

In Tennessee, we have many state employees who can provide services that are needed in the community. In the fields of mental health and mental retardation, the direct care staff are in short supply but are necessary in both the state institutions/facilities and in the community. It would be helpful, in my opinion, to the goal of moving more individuals into the community and keeping them there, if direct care staff such as Developmental Technicians, Psychiatric Technicians, Social Workers, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Behavioral Analyst, Dietitians, etc. could work for the community agencies with appropriate disclosure of their employment with the agency and by the agency to th

I am not a Lawyer so I don't feel qualified to address the matter of New Laws or possible changes to Old Laws. However, I do believe that having a Law in place is great. There definitely needs to be a penalty for doing something wrong. I just hate to see it come to that for anyone. I am sure that some people just somehow lose their way in life. I think it would be so much better if we could just give our "Elected Officials" some guidance in this area. It would seem more beneficial to offer assistance than to have to continue threatening punishment. If the State does not offer some kind of training course about Ethics for "Elected Officials" it would probably be prudent to start. If there are Ethics Courses already in place then if they are not mandatory then maybe they should be. And again, if there already are Ethics Courses in use then they might need to be updated due to the recent set of circumstances. Anyway, I have said about enough on this subject. In closing I would say that I am all for giv

I believe a law would need to be passed and enforced that would make the different Lobbyist, Legislature, and anyone else that it included know that they are paid by the citizens of the state and they do not have the right to do whatever they want to. Maybe some type of review board with public citizens and appointed officials to hear the cases that are dealing with the ethical situations. I do not believe all records should be open records and that could be addressed in this law also.

I think that perhaps the single most important thing that can be done is to extend the scope of the Open Meetings Act to cover the State Legislature and to increase the size and scope of the penalties available under that Act when citizens are forced to spend their hard-earned dollars pursuing lawsuits against

officials who act in secret.
Ethical behavior must become part of the fabric of doing business in government. All politicians and State employees must begin to see and appreciate the importance of ethical behavior as not just an option but a part of who we are in State government. We can accomplish this through education, more education and ethics mentoring at all levels of supervision and management. Accountability for actions must be fostered through openness when conducting meetings and executing business. All lobbying activity must be disclosed and aired publicly.
You must be serious about it. Citizens already believe that all politicians are dishonest and that they look the other way when one of them is doing something unethical. There needs to be stiff penalties for those politicians who break the law.
send politicians and law makers to jail when they are caught breaking the law and cheating the tax payers.
For the most part state workers are good people and I have found very few instances of bad ethics within them. Elected officials are truly a different subject. Based on the recent issues in the state legislature I feel that the current laws appear to be ineffective and the penalties for wrong doing seem lax.
The state of Tennessee, Department of revenue needs to review their ethics in the promotion process of the auditors. How can we have good government if the government does not set the standards and practice them themselves. It seems the State does not practice the current laws so how can we expect them to practice any new ones.
I don't know if you can make the necessary reforms. How can you legislate someone's ethics? How can someone not know if what they are doing is ethical or not? If they don't know, you are fighting a losing battle. I don't think the people of TN or the USA will ever feel confident that the people in power are very ethical. When the dollar seems to drive the people who are making the decisions affecting the rest of us, we are at their mercy. I don't envy your job of trying to reform the rules to make people be trustworthy. However, you do have my blessing. It would be a wonderful thing to have people in power who truly care, but didn't show favoritism. Good luck. Not much of an opinion on how to fix something, just a sad co-worker at how the world seems to work. Those of us who feel we have strong values and ethics are disgusted on a regular basis with those who "lead" us and don't have either.
I think that the issues of sexual harassment could be addressed by broad based education of all personnel in state government including members of the state legislature. We are finishing a long distance learning project in which physicians and physicians in training will learn the rules of behavior so they will know the rules about crossing sexual boundaries. Vanderbilt University has excellent policies on sexual boundaries including consensual sex. They would be very useful to the state as educational material.
I feel that ethics violations should be eliminated. This has stolen and/or wasted TN taxpayers' money that could have been spent in much more productive ways, for instance, to help finance and stabilize the TennCare program.
It is obvious that Tennessee Leads America in such discussions, I must admit that some governments officials only look at their personal interests in lieu of those that have elected them.
It seems that most government officials tend to hold themselves above everyone else. The laws should be reviewed and changed accordingly so that things that have happened recently do not continue to happen. I also believe this should actually be nation wide. The penalties should be tougher on people who break the law even if in public office. Most ordinary citizens would be in deep trouble if they had done what several were caught doing at normal jobs. I realize I haven't provided any solutions to the current predicament but without reading all of the laws concerning this it is hard to change.
I do not believe lobbying activities should be left unchecked there should be some formal way or committee(permanent) that is set up to have all lobbyist activities monitored regularly.
Also if ordinary citizens must disclose personal finance information all should. no one should be above any laws.
again I know I haven't provided a quick fix but do realize that this is going to be a long battle as the pe
Misappropriation of fund is just that. Our elected officials are state employees just as I am. If I were caught taking money from TN citizens, I would be dealt with swiftly and severely. And so should they. We

are not here for a free ride, we are here to serve. It takes an awful Low Life to take something they know does not belong to them. Shame on them, Shame. What must their families think of them. What kind of a legacy is this to leave for not only their children, but all the innocent victims they have scammed. Why should they be allowed to slide past the laws that the rest of us have to observe. They should be locked up with the other scum that they have made laws to keep behind bars.

need to make lawmakers more responsible for their actions. If

a law is violated, by all means they need to be prosecuted. There is no room for public officials who are corrupt & using their elected position to enrich themselves when there are alot of us who work hard to make ends meet.

Lawmakers should be held to the same standards as any Tennessee citizen, no questions asked. The process of questioning a lawmaker's ethics should be made easier for both their peers and the general public.

Term limits on the legislature (no more than 8 years) - would eliminate the "superpowerful" legislators who have been around 20+ years.

License lobbyists - with the provision that their licenses can be suspended or permanently revoked.

Have additional research staff available for the legislature so they would not depend on the lobbyists for their research. Place the staff under the comptrollers office and keep them with the specific legislative office - staff stays the same, legislator changes.

Governor Bredesen, I have worked for the State for more than 30 years and unfortunately I have seen corruption up close in more than one administration. The roots of ethics violations (corruption) are money and power. These are basic drives in our society and are common to most all people. The only way to address corruption is to make people in responible positions accountable for their actions. This requires as open a government as possible. We must make it a penalty not a reward for participating in, hiding or covering up corruption and ethics violations. Based on my observation of State officials this is going to be extremely difficult to implement on a practical on-going basis. It goes against human nature to expose oneself to scrutiny and possible punishment. Strong laws will help, but there has to be a C-change in our culture that goes beyond legal restrictions and surface compliance with laws. Some way we need a campaign to help employees change from the culture of the past to a culture of the

I think one thing that would help the political offices is to put a time limit on the # of terms that a politician can run for office. You have court clerks, sheriffs, mayors, judges, senators, etc. that after they have been in office for years, get lacked and cocky in their jobs. They think because they have held the office for years that they have the election in the bag each term that they run, even when they have an appointant. They don't care to put as much time and effort into the job if they have had the position for years, they take payoffs, they take bribes such as the ones did, that were arrested a few weeks ago. The President of the United States has limited terms to run, why not state and local government. I think that 3- four year terms for office should be long enough for an individual to be in office. After that, let a new face that the voters have elected, come into a position, that will come in with a new energy and new ideas to get things done. Then when the previous official is out of offic

First, I believe the current administration is one of the most ethical in the 25 years of my Tennessee citizenship. I say that although I typically vote Republican, but am not a member of any political party. Government should be setting the standard of ethical business conduct, rather than being drug along. I commend the initiatives such as <http://www.centerforpublictrust.org> which is Tennessee based with a national mission. State involvement and sponsorship of initiatives such as this could go a long way to setting the standard.

the ethics committee as all citizens should abide by all ethics as all of state government too

July 22, 2005

Dear Governor Bredesen:

I appreciate your efforts to bring better ethics into state government and your willingness to accept input from the citizens of the state. I am currently employed by the state as an Environmental Protection Specialist 3 in the Department of Environment and Conservation. I worked for 71/2 years in the Division of Groundwater Protection (GWP) and for over 4 years in the Division of Underground Storage Tanks

(UST).

It seems to me that conflict of interests exist between private professionals and the citizens of the state. Financial interests of the private soil scientists working with GWP and Corrective Action Contractors (CACs) working with UST are at odds with good fiscal stewardship of the state's natural and fiscal resources.

Property developers pay private soil scientists. The developers make more money if more lots are approvable. The more lots that are shaded green (good) by the soil scientist, the more money the developer can receive. If a soil scientist

There should be a price associated with violating ethics. The most commonsense one would be if you violate ethics while in a government position, you lose all benefits associated with that position. Primary example are the retirement benefits for those senators that were arrested in the FBI sting. They specifically should be stripped of their benefits if found guilty by a special legislative bill seeing as how they were grandfathered in under the current laws.

It's not necessarily the ethics laws that need to be updated, it's more of the punishment for violating those laws that needs to be reviewed.

I think Tennessee's history of public corruption is one that taints public faith and confidence in our elected officials. Strict ethics laws would send the message that our legislature would like to take steps to prevent future corruption. However I, like many of my friends and acquaintances, have little hope that any such meaningful legislation will ever be passed in Nashville. One step that I would like to see is a pension, and any benefit, waiver for public officials convicted of felonies while in office. Public release of financial information would possibly prevent incidents like that of Sen. Ford.

I am very pleased to see you addressing these issues and hope the legislature will soon follow suit.

I have always believed in giving 100%. I do not mind staying late or even coming in after hours to meet with a client, I have even met in their home when transportation was a critical issue. I don't mind staying and mowing the property lawn in order to have the facility look nice. My point is that we are bound so tightly by legal regulations that I believe it hampers the quality service we could offer. Having state employees that are team players that have pride in their job and are willing to go the extra mile to meet a need is very important. I realize we must have regulations in order to provide dependable service but I do believe allowing more flexibility at the field level, with approval from a team playing supervisor, would go a long way to show that we care and are not just an 8 to 4:30 organization.

We the people...that should say it all. Mr. Bredesen I thank you really know we need a reform and I pray that you will get one for us.

My God continue to bless you and our state.

I DO NOT BELIEVE REFORM IS THE PROBLEM, ENFORCEMENT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM. LIKE THE CHAIN OF COMMAND, SUPERIORS GET BOTH PRAISE WHEN SUBORDINATES DO A GOOD JOB AND BLAME WHEN THEY DO A BAD JOB. ALL TOO OFTEN THE BLAME ROLLS DOWNHILL WHILE THE PRAISE IS ABSORBED WHERE IT IS GIVEN. PLEASE ADVISE THE LOWEST RANKING EMPLOYEES THAT THEY SHOULD REPORT ETHICS VIOLATIONS NO MATTER WHAT LEVEL AND THEN PROTECT THEM AGAINST REPRISALS.

Ethics are mostly learned early in life and then honed later. An individual entering public service by election, appointment, or hiring carry both good and bad behaviors as part of their professional past. It is a monstrous task to weed out those who are not suitable to represent the State of Tennessee. Managers must be above reproach as viewed by their superiors and must demand high standards from their subordinates. The primary level supervisor must know what the ethics of any situation call for and must feel that their request for actions ranging from training to firing of an offending employee will be dealt with quickly. For elected officials, short term limits would likely have the largest impact on corruption as it limits the ability of back door networks to develop. Officials convicted of crimes while in the public trust should have their sentence automatically doubled above that received by a private individual. Lobbying should be a felony.

An audit team should be assigned to review the federal tax returns on all high level appointees during their tenure on state government and one year following their employment with the state. This could

include, at a minimum, Governor's staff, Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners and anyone who has direct oversight of contracts management. Some employees may see this as an invasion of privacy but it could be a condition of employment, agreed to on the front end.

Recent contracts fraud cases would have been easily identified by state government, instead of the media and eventually the FBI, if someone had just review the tax return of the guilty after they left the state. That is why I am strongly recommending during employment and for one year following.

As long as we have part-time legislators, people who have to do something outside government to earn a living, there will be the potential and the temptation for ethics violations. I favor part-time legislators. Full-time legislators would feel a compulsion to legislate each year, whether or not anything needed to be done. That's bad for the citizenry of our state.

Disclosure and penalties for nondisclosure should be the rule. The voters and the remaining legislators can make their feelings known if they do not like what they see in the disclosures.

Any lobbying activity that has the potential to involve a conflict of interest should be avoided. Any activity that does occur should be reported. Any potential activity in question should be approved first by an independent ethics panel. This panel should not be just bipartisan. There should be representation by the citizens at large outside of political party affiliation.

Tennessee's ethics laws can be made stronger:

1. By passing strong ethics laws that define VERY SPECIFICALLY what policies must be followed by lobbyists, legislators, and state employees related to campaign finance, disclosure, expenses, and acceptable practices.

2. By tying VERY SPECIFIC penalties and punishments to infractions starting with automatic from position if formally charged by Grand Jury and/or proven guilty.

3. By having adequate accounting procedures in place to review legislative disclosures related to campaign finance, and also review payments, especially to legislators, for expenses claimed during sessions. With reference to per diem, the fact that many legislators claim these expense without having actually spent the money is dishonest and should be unlawful. Kim McMillan is a prime example, among many others.

4. By having a strong Ethics Commission--not a group of legislators--to oversee lobbyist and legislative activities and disclosures. Make sure required disclosures hav

I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT SO MANY CHANCES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE REPRIMANDED AND STILL CONTINUE TO BE PROBLEM EMPLOYEES I FEEL LIKE THE 3 STRIKE LAW SHOULD APPLY TO US TOO!!!! I'M A CAREER STATE EMPLOYEE AND I LOVE MY JOB AND I ENJOY SERVING THE PARTICIPANTS ON WIC WITH A SMILE AND WARM GREETINGS. IT TAKES SO LITTLE EFFORT TO BE NICE, BUT I HAVE EXPERIENCED QUITE A FEW NOT SO NICE PEOPLE OVER THE LAST 25+ YEARS, AND WHEN I LEAVE THIS POSITION, I HOPE THAT NOBODY CAN SAY THAT ABOUT ME. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS WITH ETHICS, AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO ASK STATE EMPLOYEES THEIR OPINIONS!!!!

No conflicts of interest - e.g., taking no lobbyist money (no votes bought and sold, that way), having any dealing that would conflict with legislation whatsoever, monitor all lobbying activities (no loopholes allowed), full disclosure of all finance, campaign, monies accepted. As a state employee, I remember being warned about the 'cup of coffee' law - and now, to see Sen. Ford accepting \$240,000 without batting an eye is totally unacceptable. Our legislators must be kept accountable. I know they don't get paid much -and maybe we could look at changing that but, no perks (free sports tickets, parking, and cut the loopholes allowing all of this.) In other words, if every state employee can't do it, it's NOT ok for them to do either. Sorry if I'm harsh but we have to get serious - and stern about this. No more free rides and lots less perks ! Thank you Governor for asking for our opinions. Please run for President in 2008 too.

The punishment dosen't fix the crime. Untill the laws are changed to make the punishment so sevier that even the "Thousands" they stand to gain isn't worth the risk. It all comes down to the scales of our justice system, they are so one sided that people know that all they will receive is a slap on the hand and in-house probation, maybe not even that, so sure they go for the big bucks. In todays society, its sad to say,

but its the "M & M" syndrome, "Money or Morals".
All members of the committee should not be from a higher pay background. There should be real people with real jobs. Not all lawyers, politicians or people who "know" someone.
There is no doubt ethics laws need to be stronger. Look at the recent situation with state representatives being indicted on bribery charges and a Tennessee educator receiving Super Bowl tickets and another being reprimanded for sexual harrassment. I'm talking about men and women who have been entrusted to safeguard the money and property of the State of Tennessee. And that is the difference. It is the People's money not corporate money.
I think the insurance lobbyists have too much influence...should have to insure uninsurable and not have so many on TennCare for us to pay for. Also too many children for us to pay for. Have each insurance co. take so many of the children. People have children and have no money. I am tired of it.
Sir. I am a dedicated state employee of 28 years service and a military retiree of the U S Air Force with 20 years. I believe we TDOT employees have an excellent ethics policy in place and believe if a similar Policy were in effect throughout state government and all citizens were aware of the contents and application, they may tend to trust us more. While in the Air Force, I was a military policeman and as such, part of our creed stated "I hold allegiance to my country, devotion to duty and personal integrity above all. I wear my shield of authority with dignity and restraint and promote by example, high standards of conduct, appearance, courtesy and performance. I seek no favor because of my position. I perform my duties in a firm courteous and impartial manner and strive to merit the respect of my fellow airman and all with whom I come in contact" I really believe the majority of our law makers are above reproach and would follow the above creed however, I also believe that it will take time for the
I think the insurance lobbyists have too much influence...should have to insure uninsurable and not have so many on TennCare for us to pay for. Also too many children for us to pay for. Have each insurance co. take so many of the children. People have children and have no money. I am tired of it.
Unfortunately, You, the Governor, talk a good game, however after listening to you for many years, I have yet to see or hear you actually SAY or DO anything that is to the good of Tennesseans. I feel this e-mail will go by the wayside as do any negative things brought to your attention. I do want to say, that the people of Tennessee deserve more than they are getting. It is my belief that politics (or should I say the politians)have for too long looked out for themselves rather than the people who elected them into office. I think that is proven with the latest discovery of corruption uncovered in the Tennessee governing body. It is too bad that more is not discovered and STOPPED! Let the people of Tennessee reap the rewards of their hard earned work and loyalty for the state. You can write or talk out of the side of your mouth as do most politians, but when it comes down to it, Tennessee needs CHANGE! STOP THE GOVERNMENT FROM HURTING THE VERY PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE AND WORK HERE AND ARE FEELING THE PAIN!
My comments are more related to behavior of State employees. As a professional forester I had to agree upon employment to refrain from taking any employment away from my job for profit doing anything related to my profession. I think this is just because there are self employed business people who do not have a job with the state and no safety net. Their livelihood depends entirely upon what they are able to do themselves. For a state employee to be offering similar services at night, on weekends, on compensatory leave, or on annual leave charging lower fees is unfair to them. Some State employees have done this and, I believe, are doing so at this time. The policy should be re-emphasized and anyone caught violating the policy should be terminanted at once. One other example is someone employed with TDOT as a surveyor who surveys for a fee when on his own time. He should work for the State or leave and work on his own.
I think it is also inportant to review the current policies and standards used to review clients for state benefits. The requirments are not strong enough or investigated well enough to prevent people from getting benefits who do not deserve them. Foodstamps and Families first application process needs to be updated. Verify more then just a collaterals word of mouth that things are as they seem. Establish a new process for employers and landlords to verify income or rent payments, make them aware that there is a penalty for lying for someone just to help get benefits and that they will be help responsible and even fined. to accept a hand written letter just stating I pay you for services that no one can verify should not be acceptable. I think this state would do alot better if it modeled it's state benefit program like the one in Chicago, IL in TN benefits seem so easy to get everyone moves here to get them.
Lobbying: It should be illegal for any person holding public office to accept money in any amount in exchange for his or her proposing legislation partial to that lobbying group. Campaign finance and

disclosure rules should be made more stringent. The personnel who audit finance and disclosure and those who investigate and prosecute infractions should be increased in number and supported with adequate funding.

I am not well-versed in current rules so will not try to be specific. Your Advisory Group will be knowledgeable. I do want you to know that I agree strongly with your initiatives on ethics, your TennCare effort and with your overall role as governor of Tennessee.

I am one of the few Democrats in Cleveland and will continue doing what I can to support you. Many of my republican friends say they like what you have shown them thus far. Keep it up!

Have them follow the same rules as all government employees. No gifts, no favors and special treatment.

Random audits should be done by private agencies with no political connections. All officials should be required to submit to a auditing agency at the end of a predetermined date all monies received.

I think that we have to do something to put confidence back into the government. When you see several people being lead off of the Senate floor in handcuffs is not what we want to teach the children that are coming up in our community that you can take bribes and get by with it. Here at West Tennessee Legal Services we have to be accountable for our actions and I won't want it any other way. Sorry I will get off of my soapbox.

We reconize the need to teach our children character in school, but it seems that character training slips back to the least priority when we become adults. But in my experience personally and by observation, character is the crying need of all people young and old.

I believe what we need to do is to bring the whole community together (the government sector, the business sector and the religious sector) to promote good character across the board. Peer pressure is a powerful thing...even more powerful than law itself. If we can harness this power in a positive way, lasting results in our society can be effected.

Some cities are joining the growing number "character cities" who are promoting good character to the whole community. Laws help control crime, but if we can persuade our citizens to develop good character, the need for "more effective" laws would vanish. What we really need is better people, not better laws. Unfortunately, some are very creative when it comes to circumventing a law.

We need to hold people accountable for their work and efforts in behalf of the citizens of Tennessee. Ethics training specific to the clientele being served should be required. Government officials should demonstrate high ideals and ethics in personal business if they are to make decisions about the spending of government monies. Ethics require that we accept folks where they are and too often those in government set expectations based on one set of values and ignore the values of others. For example, if I and my husband work a minimum wage job and have 2 children, we are probably not going to be able to put away much for the future and still feed, house, clothe and educate our children. I'm working and paying taxes and doing the best I can with a high school education. It cannot be expected that I will have the resources to plan for my retirement.

Mr. Bredesen,

My concern is for the citizens of this state who were on TNCare. I am sure that you have received much feedback regarding this issue. I know that there are people out there who are only interested in feeding off of the welfare that this state provides. However, I also know that there are hurting people in this state who need financial support when it comes to their medicine. I do know people who have been cut from TNCare who are also on social security and "make too much" to receive food stamps. These people need help with their medicines and doctor appointments. It does not seem ethical that they have been cut from their only form of stability - their healthcare. I know that this is a bigger issue than I could ever know regarding policies and paperwork. However, it just does not seem fair that the lower & middle classes are getting the worst end of this deal. Most of them can work, but choose not to...trust me, I know. However, there are the few who legitimately cannot work and are

By having at least some requirments to hold office. Any state employee has to meet minimum education and experience requirments and I think elected officals should also. Punishment for those found to be in

violation of those ethics should be held accountable for their actions.
tell the truth and trust in god because everyone has to answer for there own ethics to all mighty god
Whatever ethics laws we have need to especially apply to all our elected officials. They pass laws about state employees accepting gifts, food, beverages, etc. and exempt themselves from those laws.
Need laws limiting the amount of contact as well as type of contact that lobbyest have to lawmakers. Private individuals should have the same, if not better access to their elected officials than people like the "Golden Goose". Definately limit corporate contributions as well as "loans" to people running for public office. Close the loopholes.
The elected officials need to be held to a higher standard and made accountable for their actions.
Some of the perception is that the legislators are above the law and until we the people feel that they are held to the same laws that we are, we will never fully trust them.
I appreciate the job you and your wife are doing for the state. However, I have to question how serious we are about ethics when we are insistent on paying a pension to a crook like John Ford and his ilk. Seems to me that that kind of response only encourages a lack of ethics and contributes to the low morale among those of us trying to honestly serve the state and making a pittance for our efforts. And in my opinion questioning ethics shouldn't just stop at "the hill". We could really use some focused introspection on all levels of management. The troops here in the trenches are constantly bearing the brunt of politics interffering with good business decisions. This is causing the state to lose good people and there doesn't appear to be anyone who cares or things would have changed by now. Maybe you can make the difference. Thank you for your time and thanks for all you do for the great state of Tennessee.
Maybe some sort of swearing-in ceremony, like the governor's but obviously with less fanfare and expense, for each state employee or official. Something to the efect of "I do soloemnly swear to serve the people of Tennessee and fulfill the duties of my office faithfully to the best of my abilities, so help me God."
Dropping pension benefits (TCRS) for polititians and state employees convicted of ethics violations or other crimes.
I have grown increasingly discontent for the way our legislators "feel" as thou accepting "gifts" is the normal way in which they do business. They fact that any of them would defend those who have been caught is even more disturbing. It is very ironic that we (executive branch employees) operate under rules set by our legislative body (such as purchasing and personal conduct), yet they do not inact such rules for themselves. I would suggest that all of government abide by the same rules as far as accepting gifts, favors, perks, etc. Also, the group that monitors legislative campaign finance and disclosure should be given more power/authority to relieve anyone from unauthorized acitvity from service. <b>HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE</b> and let's get out of the business of making excuses for these folks.
A set amount to each party. No back door money coming in.
I am concerned about the Attorney General's recent decision to uphold the pensions for those lawmakers who were indicted. Why are we allowing them to receive their pensions just because they "grandfathered" in. The laws may not have been in place when they came into their positions, but the laws were most definately in place when they chose to break them.
I believe continuing to monitoring politicians more closely will help. Due to "Operation-Tennessee Waltz", many people have lost respect for the politicians which puts everyone involved in state govenment under the microscope.
I strongly feel that elected officials and appointees should not be lobbyists, be married to lobbyists, and should be required to report all fianancial and material contributions they receive from lobbyists and all others. I feel that if our elected officials are convicted of a felony they should be prosecuted to the extent of the law (and it better be a good law with severe penalties) and receive greatly reduced or no pension monies. I believe that nepotism and serving two masters is wrong and should be eliminated from state government. Full disclosure must be required of all elected officials and top appointees. As a resident of Tennessee and a tax payer I am embarrassed by the way we conduct the business of this state.
To continue to closely monitor those entrusted to hold elected office and make those persons accountable for all ethics violations. I also feel that those that are found guilty of any ethics violations should not be entitled to any financial award even if that individual was elected before the new ethics laws



were legislated (John Ford). It is disgraceful that any elected individual violating ethic laws would continue to receive our hard-earned tax dollars.

Lobbyists turning in annual fiscal reports.

External auditing reports for campaign finances.

Monetary penalties for violations.

As an employee of county government for eleven years I would hope that the same rules that apply to me would apply to those employees at the state that make our laws whether appointed, elected or applied for the position they hold. I am accountable to the County Mayor in every way and espically for my moral conduct. Character is the person you are when no one is looking!!! Money , trips, jobs for family memebers etc should pass the test under the light of day. The people of Williamson County depend on me to tell the truth, educate them to take responsible action in ways to protect the environment and do the best job I can.

I hope you will take the ethics situation very seriously and correct a situation that makes every goverment employee look like they are not trustworthy.

In the private sector, when one is charged with a behavior that potentially may lead to the dismissal of the person, the person is usually put on administrative leave until an administrative review or an investigation can occur. I think legislatures should be put on adminisrative leave until a judgement is returned on their case. They should not be allowed to mingle with their colleagues on the floor until cleared of all charges. If they want to claim their innocence, let them do it from the front porch of their home and not the steps of Legislative Plaza. We can certainly afford to keep them on the payroll until they go to court because we have been throwing money away to lucrative under-the-table deals while they were in office anyway. The more honest you can make the legislature, the more money you will save for the taxpayers of Tennessee!

I have been happy to be a State employee for almost 29 years. When persons violate the trust placed in them all of us suffer. I would like for all lobbying to be stopped. Our legislators were sent there because they told us they had good ideas and knew how to make laws so why would they need to have a paid someone to tell them how to do their job.It is too easy for an unethical person to be swayed by money and decisions that are not for the good of the State. We tell our DHS staff to be good stewards if the State's(citizen's)money and should expect no less from our elected officials.

Anything that could be done to strengthen that aspect of state government will be appreciated.

Make laws for the Ethics Violations and see that the Legislature doesn't turn their backs to their fellow legislatures, then you have to really enforce them for everyone. Don't ignore the ones that have so called political power. These gentlemen work for the people of the State of Tennessee, not for themselves.

In all areas of local, state and federal government, the people are supposed to be represented. However, in the past 25 years or so, it seems that many legislators have lost that ideal and serve private interests. I feel that lobbying activities should be curtailed. Any company that has violations in lobbying should be barred from bidding on state contracts.

If there is sexual harrassment by a legislator, governor cabinet officer, they should be treated just like any other state employee. Even though they are elected, this gives the impression that they are above the law. That is one idea that does not need reinforced.

When convicted, they should not be allowed to complete their legislative terms in jail, or ever run again.

It seems like every couple of weeks there is something else dishonest that is found about our legislature and they have lost much respectand credibility from the citizens.

I am not sure what the solution will ever be, but I do think that term limits for the legislature is necessary. The Governor is limited to two terms, so should everyone else. Maybe a total of 16 yrs. I believe some of the present problems has been one's ability to increase influence over a period of time. Gov. Bredesen has been a leader in ethics from day one. It is time for everyone else to change. I belong to groups that have PACs, but I don't want them "buying" votes for what I support. I want them to sway opinion with logical information. I must answer to many in my daily life, so should our elected officials. I do appreciate

what Gov. Bredesen is leading the way and hopefully TN. will set the standard for the country. The days of Boss Crump and Boss Ford are out of step with present society. We don't need another "Boss" to rise from the ashes of this unfortunate period in TN.

The state and state employees should be held to the same standards as the private industry is held. In the private sector we have to account for every thing that we do (i.e. purchases, expenses, etc.). We also have a limited amount of money to spend and we have to many times share resourses.

by having ordinary people on the ethics advisory committee

haveing same ethic standards across the board, there should not be any difference in how a state employee without power is treated compared to executive staff.

OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE NEEDED ETHICS FOR SOME TIME, AND AN ELECTED OFFICIAL MUST BE ABOVE REPROACH....I DO THINK THESE LOBBYIST ARE A FORCE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT AS THE TEMPATION IS THERE AND SADLY.....FEW WILL RESIST AS SUCH.....

LOBBYING DOESN'T SEEM TO BE FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN ANYMORE . IT IS FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND LARGER CONGLOMERATES.

CAMPAIGN FINANCES HAVE SKYRO CKETED TO WAY BEYOND NORMAL GUIDELINES. IT SEEMS WHOEVER GETS THE MONEY SHOULD GET THE VOTE INSTEAD OF WHO IS THE RIGHT CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB AND WILL WORK FOR THE PEOPLE- ALL OF THE PEOPLE NOT JUST THE EMPLOYED OR WEALTHY, BUT THE SENIOR CITIZEN WHO NO LONGER FEELS A PART OF THE MAINSTREAM,THE UNEMPLOYED WHO WOULD REALLY LIKE A JOB BUT DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERION FOR A LIFE SUPPORTING JOB WITH A FUTURE JUST A MINIMUM WAGE TO ALMOST MAKE ENDS MEET. THE SICK AND THOSE IN HOMES WHO FEEL A THEY ARE A BURDEN TO SOCIETY BUT REALLY WANT TO LIVE ON,ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE.

DISCLOSURE IS A JOKE BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS NEVER TOTALLY DISCLOSED. ALL THE FACTS ARE COVERED CONVENIENTLY TO FIT THE MOLD THE CANDIDATE HAS SET FORTH.

PENALTIES ARE NOT OFTEN ENFORCED ALTHOUGH THEY ARE GIVEN OUT.

Admittedly, lobbyists provide an important role in the legislative process by providing information from a variety of perspectives. Let's not be hasty in pointing fingers there. The real empahsis should be in the extent to which legislators are willing to accept favors etc. Setting limits on gifts and financial dealings might be in order.

As a state employee, I was embarrassed by the arrests of members of the legislature. These are the people who decide each year whether or not state employees get a raise, yet they are in effect, stealing from the taxpayers and engaging in questionable activities. As an auditor for Revenue, each year we are required to complete a conflict of interest form which includes personal information about where we conduct our banking activities, who holds our mortgages, etc. in order to avoid any conflicts with those businesses we may have to audit. We are being held to a higher standard than those that are passing the laws in the state.

Campaign contributions should be used only for campaigns, not weddings and the misuse of these funds should result in a 100% penalty, similar to those imposed for tax fraud.

Receiving payments of any kind from any health care company, MCO, or any type of business in order to "get a better deal" on the hill should be illegal. The guilty parties should have to pay back the mone

Years ago I worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)and their ethics/conflict of interest policy was extremely simple. You don't have to have a conflict of interest to be in violation. If it appears that you have a conflict of interest it is considered a conflict of interest.

A conflict or interest or an ethical violation is being established through law. People in public office are judged by appearance. If it appears wrong to the populace, the governmetn employee should stop doing it.

Penalties should include possible jail time..otherwise who would take ethics reform seriously? We've lost confidence in some of our law makers after some of their recent "behaviors"....

Dear Governor Bredesen,

I spent 25 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Currently, I work for the State of Tennessee in Memphis, as a Veterans Outreach Specialist. I've been in my current job for 11 months.

Here are my comments.

First of all, ethics is a lost art. A hand shake used to represent a person's word and their bond. Second, civil servants are just that, servants. They are to serve responsibly the needs of each citizen for whom they represent. Not their own self-serving intentions. Third, ethics is only 1/3 of the equation. Focus needs to be directed to provide continuous improvement in customer service. In addition, to provide the highest quality product possible regardless of your elected, appointed or hired position.

Too many civil servants forget that they are entrusted with hard earned tax dollars of the public they serve.

Thank you for your time,

I'm not quite sure as to how to make them stronger, but I do know I would feel much better about the laws in place if some of the people in office making and influencing these laws weren't involved in criminal activities. I do have a lot of faith in Governor Bredesen, and what he's done for this state. It would be great if others followed his lead instead of going for the easy out.

I've had the fortune to work for a city government before coming to the state. I can honestly say that one of the worst ethics problems I have seen concerns the disposition of land towards projects, where an elected official (at some level of government) or a relative of an elected official is somehow involved in the process.

I believe that there should not only be full disclosure made public and easily accessible, but also a stiff tax or penalty on said land sales or construction contracts in the range of 75 to 100% of profits.

It sounds harsh and unreasonable until one considers the underlying ethics and moral issues involved. The law should also take into account any possible loopholes (friends of the family that may return the money to the elected official). The lobby of the developers is well known and very strong. You'll note that in city councils and county commissions and even at the state level, there will be those who have made great sums of money on the sale or development of land (even as a t

**IF WE WAIVER ON OUR ETHICS, WE LOSE THE RESPECT OF OUR CITIZENS. WE MUST BE 100% ETHICAL IN EVERY ACTION WE TAKE AS LEADERS TO KEEP THE RESPECT AND TRUST OF THOSE WE SERVE.**

Make sure that the new ethics law are not full of loop-holes so some can individuals slip through. And what is put in place, is stood behind and strictly enforced. Maybe ethics reform should be looked at at the state employee level also. Including supervisory and subordinates. Thank you.

In order to effectively manage ethics reform, the legislators recently called on their ethics practices should not be allowed to receive a pension. Without some stern consequences to fear, ethical reform will hold no clout. No matter what changes are made in the law, if people see that they can violate the ethical standards placed on them and only get a slap on the wrist, they will continue to violate them. There must be more rigid punishments for such behavior. Fear of the consequences has more power over controlling human behavior than any other mechanism. What message do you think the public gets? A person can act unethically while holding a very important position that could possibly effect the lives of thousands of people and yet continue to hold their job and all of the benefits associated with it. If it's going on at the top what must be going on underneath? These people are role models and a message is being sent that it's okay to neglect ethical practices. This type of behavior will only spawn more o

Governor Bredesen,

As a state employee I am very troubled by the recent abuses that we have seen. I and my family work hard to survive on state wages and make ends meet. The casual and almost routine manner in which some of these abuses have taken place is very sad. In addition to yearly full finance disclosure for legislature and the executive staff, there should be an oversight organization set up to do annual reviews

of those person. The state should be proactive in spotting these abuses and not reactive. Not only that, there should be a means of reporting suspected abuses. Finally, all this should be an open ant transparent process to help restore public trust.
I think it is wrong for someone to committ such violations, then resign from the Senate/house and collect any type retirement \$ from the tax payers they have been cheating.
Forfiture of any benefits should be among the penalties.
I am not well read on ethics laws and I don't know what laws are already in place. It seems to me that this fact is indicative of why so much attention needs to be focused on ethics laws, i.e. ethics laws are not clear to everyone and there seems to be no focus on enforcement or monitoring.
Any law is only as effective as the enforcement of the law.
Yes, we do need penalties for ethics violations but why not focus on preventative activities-- education of individuals, auditing on a frequent and regular basis, full disclosure of results.
If you leave two three-year-olds alone in a room while you attend to other business. Do you...
A) Look in on them from time to time to direct their activity.
B) Let kids be kids until you smell finger-nail-polish, smoke or poop.
By first of all, making it mandatory for State Employees to have "Code Of Ethics Training" conducted on a District level with all employees when they are hired.
Also, strengthen and increase the Ethics Rules and regulations to "more specific" rules & regulations. When a state employee is determined to be guilty of such an offense, immediate action should be taken. Managementin each department should have access to a former employee's record to determine if that individual has a previous infraction prior to consideration for hire.
AS A STATE EMPLOYEE,I AM DISGUSTED W/PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO APPARENTLY HAVE MADE CAREERS ON UNETHICAL PRACTICES AND THEN ALTHOUGH FORCED TO RESIGN, CONTINUE TO PROFFIT BY RECEIVING ALL STATE ENTITLED PENSION BENEFITS. AS AN OVER 20 YR. CAREER EMPLOYEE,WHO HAS STRIVED TO PERFORM MY JOB DUTIES WITH THE HIGHEST OF ETHICAL AND MORAL STANDARDS,I STRONGLY URGE REFORM OF POLICIES AND LAWS REGARDING ETHICS.
If a legislator is found guilty of an ethics violation, they should forfeit their pension! Period. We are talking about some serious charges here where an individual places personal gain ahead of the greater good of the people who grant them the PRIVILEGE of representing them. The case currently under investigation places the great state of Tennessee in a very unfavorable light nationally. Let's turn this around and create legislation that will allow the courts to deliver swift and harsh penalties for offenders. Make the penalty so unique yet severe that it becomes a model for national ethics reform.
Secondly, is it possible to restrict campaign contributions to minimal amounts? Say a thousand dollars. It seems to someone outside the pollitical process that considerable pollitical influence can be won based on campaign contributions. In my opinion, the only thing that will prevent legislation like this from being enacted, the very people that stand to benefit from the status quo
The laws are probably OK; I'm not very familair with them other than how they affect me in my job. I have worked for TDEC for 29 years. If I remain until May 2006, the Governor will give me a plaque marking 30 years of state service. The plaque will not say how well I did my job, or make any observation about the quality of my character. For years we have been told we can't even have someone we regulate buy our lunch or give us a free Coca Cola and I have always tried to honor that. It bothers me to hear that our elected officials do not seem to conduct themselves by the same standards. I see TV articles about free trips given to legislators. I read about sports tickets, meals, and other perks given, and I wonder why it is that they don't seem to be subject to the same restrictions I am. When I vote for anyone for elected office I would like to think that he or she has the same commitment to integrity in doing the job they are seeking as I do. If I lose that hope, I'll quit voting. Elected officials should be
I think that management is the key to improving ethics in state government. Having checks,balances

along with accountability. I also am for term limits because i think when someone has been in office for a long time you take for granted why you were put there in the first place and you can start to feel as if you are above the law. I was in retail management back in the 70's and they moved their managers around every four years because they would get store blindness. This is where you start not seeing things that need to be taken care of. After you are transfered you start noticing things right of the back and come in with a new attitude. tightening the laws will help alot, sometimes we need these type things to "keep an honest man honest". When my children come to me about anything i tell them to "always do the right thing". I have been a state of tennessee for 19 years I was raised in Missouri but Tennessee has become my home, I know you will do the right thing,i trust you.

by doing what has been charged of the advisory group.

I don't feel that you can make someone have ethics. You are taught ethics as you are growing up. If the elected officials cannot conduct themselves in an ethical way, they need to step down. If you do make laws for stronger ethics, you will need to enforce them. Have you ever seen a parent tell a child "If you do that again I will punish you?" and then the parent sees the child comment the error again and the parent does not punish the child. What is that telling that child? I can do this and get away with it. This is happening with society as a whole, politicians included.

I have been a State Employee for 16 years. I think that elected officials should have to follow the same ethics rules as I do as a State Employee. I cannot receive a gift from anyone under any circumstances. As a State employee I am constantly reminded that I can lose my job. My family wants to know why elected officials are allowed to receive gifts. We want to know why elected officials are not held to the same standards as other State employees are. Thankyou

Today the house majority leader joined a firm that has a large lobbying business. Your office has not shown any desire to address the ethics problem. Why?

The house and senate have been corrupt, for many years. Yet we fail to see any action from your office, Why did you not appoint more citizens to you panel? We need strong leadership from our Governor. So far we have failed to see you correct the problem. Fix it, once and for all. Enact legislation to RESTRICT lobbyist, and hold the legislature accountable to the citizens, not the lobbyist.

Ethics are extraordinarily important, and should require conduct that makes certain that there is not even the appearance of impropriety. I serve on the standards and ethics board of a professional association, and I know both how important this is and how difficult it can be. I also attended a college where a code of honor was taken very seriously. Honor should be taken very seriously in Tennessee state government.

A code of ethics should be distributed to every elected official, government employee, and appointed member of any board or commission, and should be signed by them; one copy should be retained by them and the other by the agency. This could be done electronically.

An independent ethics board should be appointed (perhaps attached to the Attorney General or the Comptroller, set up in some fashion similar to the mechanism that monitors the professional standards of attorneys), and there should be a process established where ethical breaches are reported and acted upon.

Swift adjudicat

No ethics reform will be complete without stopping the revolving door in Tennessee. No state employee should be allowed to work for a contractor who did business with that employees state department.

Legislators should not be able to lobby for 2 years.

This is the standard for the Federal gov. and most states.

I don't have any problem with the way the system works here. I do believe that it's just right to evaluate each employee on their performance at work to make sure we meet the standards set for all state employees. However it would be fair if employees have the opportunity to evaluate their managers as well. Some facilities do that and it works pretty well. Employees and managers have the chance to solve problems and make the working environment better for the good of all especially for the people that we are serving here.

After the recent bill passed, John Ford's lawyer was quoted as saying that nothing Ford had done would be out-lawed by the new legislation. If that is correct, then throw it out and start over.
Review the laws and policies, but do not spend too much time on this issue.
I have a small medical equipment store and about 40% of my clients are on Tenn Care. There are several that will no longer be able for bennefits due to the recent policy changes. Had anyone looked at doing an income based payment plan? This would allow continuation of coverage and put some money back into the system. I understand that there where some abusing the system and also some that are well off just not able to obtain comercial insurance due to health related problems. The time and effort wasted on appointing committes to research the problem could have been put to much better use! Is there anyone keeping track of the money?
Its sad to say, but I don't believe you can legislate morality or ethics. If we the voters don't pay better attention we get what we deserve. They are always going to protect each other in times like these.
Like most ethics, they strengthen as they are violated so looking at those that have violated the trust of the public at large and more clearly defining the laws regulating those activities will be primary to reform.
Financial dislcosure must be more specific as to identification and description of sources of income - no vague statements like "consulting" next to large amounts of income. There must be a black-out period between leaving government and becoming a lobbyist. We must end the practice of allowing spouses of legislators to be lobbyists.
This state does not have a good track record when it comes to Ethics. We tend to place Contractors in charge of Transportation matters. This falls along the lines of putting the Fox over the Hen house.
We have key people in Nashville that is actually married to the lobbying world. This gives the public a bad image on trusting the elected officials to actually perform their duties. How can you not have a conflict of interest when that conflict is married to you? Would you allow someone that works in any departments supervise their spouse? Would you allow someone as high/low as the directors seat to have a spouse owning or working for a primary contractor and not find that a conflict of interest. If your going to hold the people working for or contracting with the state to hold high standards of ethics. The ethics for the legislators should be alot stronger than what they require for others.
Rumors tend to spread easy. The ideas were spreading at one time that the majority of the state assisted
It is a shame when our elected officials violate the laws they are sworn to uphold. Loop holes need to be tightened and penalties for breaking them more severe.
When an individual becomes a representative of the people of TN they must be held accountable for their actions. a person ethic is their bridge to success. When citizens go to the polls to vote for a candidate, they are putting their trust in them. To abridge that trust is surmountable to treason.
1.No one on the ethics commision should have been a legislator, lobbyist or lawyer.
2. The ethics commision should report to the Attorney General.
3.To immediately clean up ethics in Tennessee, Shelby County should be given to Arkansas or Mississippi.
I cannot begin to tell you how disappointed I am Governor Bredesen's administration, particularly as it relates to the subject of ethics. It is hypocritical of him, to say the least, to be championing ethics reform, while he continues to approve the practice of shredding documents in sexual harassment cases involving top official in his administration. How can he expect to have our confidence, when he allows those officials to be treated differently than ordinary citizens or lower level government employees?
I am a Republican who went out on a limb and voted for Governor Bredesen in the last election and, right now, I feel like my vote was wasted.
The laws are a joke. NO group should have special access to those charged with running our State government. Tennesseans understand that if Larry Lobby gives you money or provides other services, He wants special treatment.

As long as lobbyists can directly spend money on lawmakers, they will expect a quid pro quo. If an issue before the government of Tennessee is not good for all Tennesseans, it should not benefit any special interest.

Come on, let's pull our heads out of the sand. If lobbyists have access to that kind of money, they want their will done at the Capitol, not the will of the people.

Tennessee is rapidly becoming the

laughing stock of America, due to

its power grabbing politicians with their hands in the public's

coffers. With our leaders constantly wanting to increase taxes, I cannot see where any person or company would want to relocate to Tennessee. How about some common sense to see if our government's actions would pass a smell test. I would like to see

a lot less talk, and a lot more action on doing what is honorable

and decent. Thank you.

And would please correct the spelling of "ethics". It is misspelled twice on your web page.

Enlist the services of an independent group, not affiliated with state government, to receive complaints from any state employee, from legislators on down regarding ethics violations. This group would record the alleged violations and keep the informants identity completely confidential. They would screen the complaints, prioritizing them based on possible impact to state government, and route them to the appropriate agency, committee etc. They would follow up on the complaints to make sure that they were properly addressed in a timely manner. They would report directly to the governors office at least monthly, so that all potential issues reported would be known. The governors office would then be able to act more proactively if a situation was found to be of legitimate concern.

I watch money wasted on go nowhere projects all of the time. I am like many who work for the state in feeling that Billy Bob's uncles' nephews' cousins' son gets contracts so he can kick back to Billy Bob. It has long been a kind of payola system that makes no sense until you trace down the true identity of Billy Bob and see it is a senator or rep. PLEASE STOP AND FIX THIS!!!!

The days of good ole' boy politics are long gone. We have to be totally above board in all of our dealings. As a state employee and an internal auditor, I feel that all of my actions must be above reproach. The way I look at it, if it is something I would not want to tell my Mother about, I would not do it.

Penalties should be stronger and more consistently enforced. If citizens are to have faith in their public servants, accountability is important.

First of all when you make a law enforce it. Second of all the government is suppose to look out for the people and that is what your laws should do. The ethic laws should be geared toward making sure the legislators and whom ever else serving the public are truly putting the time in to make Tennessee better for the people not themselves only. What type of accountability do you have regarding how their time is spent. How many of them truly follow up with the people that write them letters or how many of them return phone calls to us, not many I can tell you that! They should be working, not making deals. And a good politician would know that you campaign all year round not just before election time. It would be nice to see them out asking the public what they could do to better the state or government or whatever community they serve. They are supposed to be servants, but they look to be served. You can't trust anything that is said during these campaigns, because it always turns into a broken promise. The sch Have a zero tolerance. One strike and you are out, no exceptions.

Some of the proposals we read about in the newspapers seem good to me. I like the idea of requiring publication of the amounts lobbyist spend and to whom it is paid and the purpose. I also like the idea of all political contributions being published. Conflict of interest is real and anyone with an open mind should be able to recognize it. However, a number of people in both government and business seem to base their ethics and conflict of interest decisions on staying within the narrowly defined rules. Therefore the rules should be written in such a way that they may be easily circumvented.

Ethics starts with morality. The TennCare cuts are immoral and unnecessary.

At least once a year, the TBI should conduct similar undercover investigations to the FBI's sting operation that finally nabbed John Ford and others like him. The only way to enforce ethics rules is to let elected officials know that they will be watched and will be held accountable.

I would like to be able to check something other than "yes" or "no" because I believe a person either is ethical or not. I'm not certain it's something that can be taught. I continue to ask the question: would an ethics law have prevented the activities John Ford was engaged in?

We need strict ethics laws that set a model for the rest of the country.

I think the recent revelation of many legislators taking money from lobbyists is an indication we need strong laws in this area.

Strengthen existing legislation and enforcement.

I do not feel that state employees should publicly campaign on state time using taxpayers dollars for any public office.

I also do not feel that elected officials should take large contributions from lobbyists.

Review more often and with more scrutiny

i feel that limiting terms of state legislators would be the first step. this would be, in effect, limiting the power base of one who has been in office for a lengthy amount of time. i feel this would be effective for state and federal as well.

2. strong penalties need to be in place, and enforced, for violations.

3. attorneys should not be allowed to run for legislative office. regardless of the pro arguments, lawyers at some point benefit from the laws they enacted.

4. if our legislators are really interested in our state and its people, why do we need lobbyists? we are simply talking special interest groups getting favorable legislation passed - not for the common good. is there a law that requires lobbying and lobbyists? perhaps they would do better in another profession?

finance and disclosure requirements have been discussed and rediscussed for decades. the legalities of the use of the funds (which to the "man of the street" become quite clear, get bent, torn and downright viola

Governor Bredesen,

It is my belief that we have to at all times review those ideals that we hold dear, much like reviewing our policies and procedures. It is so easy to slip once we obtain power.

As a Director of Health Information Management in one of your state healthcare facilities, I have to remind myself of my profession's code of ethics. I ask myself if I am demonstrating behavior that reflects integrity, supports objectivity and fosters trust in my activities here. I wou

Id love to believe that I respect the dignity of each human being, and that I am continually striving to improve personal competence and quality of services.

I would not knowingly participate in illegal or unethical acts. I pray that I do not unwittingly participate in the illegal or unethical acts.

I must remind myself that I should not participate in concealing the illegal, incompetent, or unethical acts of others, though I am sure it would be easier to just ignor it.

So, yes, we do need to review our Code of Et

I feel there should be immediate suspension of the state employee, from the lowest to the highest, if there is an ethical incident and the incident should be investigated fully. But to allow a legislator, for example, to continue to create policy while being investigated is just wrong, and sends the wrong message to the general populace who is comprised of people who don't trust the government fully. Citizens should see swift action, followed by swift judgment if the violations are proven.



I do not want to have to pay these lawmakers that were charged with the felony's. They should not receive any money if they end up in jail. People in politics think they are above everyone else. I am sick and tired of them trying to rule my life, take my money, and living high on the hog from my tax money. I work for the state and I can not get extra money whenever I need it. I have to live within my small paycheck. So should the government. They should be able to live on what they make just like me.

Please include Government Executives/Managers abuse of power in dealing with employees.

In addition to Citizen's Advisory Group on Ethics scrutiny consider progressively more severe penalties including mandatory jail sentences, to overcome the temptation to profit financially by betraying the public trust.

We could take a cue from the Ethics technology developed by L. Ron Hubbard. It is used in all the Scientology Churches, but is also used in many secular applications and organizations including businesses with great results. Check it out. Using Arabic numerals doesn't make us Moslem. We use technology that works no matter where it comes from. Also plug the loopholes! The ones you can drive a truck through. It destroys public confidence when those rascals who were caught red handed in the TN Waltz sting get to collect their pensions. I know we are innocent until proven guilty, but watching a video tape of someone raking up one hundred dollars bills at his desk is damning for his image as well as the government's. The pension issue is insult to injury. I really admire the way you have handled all this (and your administration in general). As far as penalties, we should treat white collar criminals as we do the others. What's the difference between some bum who needs a bath stealing my purse at gun point

My former colleague, former state senator Bud Gilbert, always bemoaned the legislature's refusal to impose real ethics reform. As lawyer, my conduct must conform to defined ethical standards. Current ethical guidelines in the legislature are no stds at all. I hope you will lead on this issue.

My son and daughter took ethics courses when in high school and it's something they absorbed rather than "learned". Their course work built on what I'd taught the children at home and helped them to really think about what it means to be ethical and helped them further develop a personal code of ethics...Sort of like being a native speaker of a language. It is not until one takes grammar that the "rules" of a native language become apparent to its speaker. Ethics is more of a mindset, a gestalt, than a list of rules that one can break and then be punished for. Where I work each employee reads the institutional ethics policies on line, answers questions and then signs a pledge that the material is understood. Ethical conduct is to continue to be our standard, and if we choose to act in an unethical manner the consequences are clear. Beyond that I don't see how you can "make" anyone act ethically. It like that old saw, "You can't legislate morality" (or maybe ethics either).

have an expedited process in the legislature by committee that reviews complaints after criminal charges are filed and can make a recommendation on if the so accused should resign immediately

Governor Bredesen, thank you for serving our state and addressing this complex issue. I do not believe ethics reform is necessary, as I fear the "law" will soon be taking away the "will of the people."

We should choose, based on our own morals and values, whom will serve us. If we desire liars, cheats and other rascals in the state house, so be it.

Let the cheaters cheats, let the media expose and let the voters decide.

Thanks for your consideration!

If the politicians were held to as strict of standards as we are in child care in Tennessee, there would be very little problems. The child care regulations will eventually put many of us out of business for financial reasons. Please don't let that happen! Violations could be fined. If you get most people in their pocketbook, you will get their attention.

Between the last crooked governor, and the current legislature, I don't trust any of the politicians at state. John Wilder needs to retire ASAP. I met him at a 911 conference a few years ago, and was not impressed at all. He managed to insult every 911 system across the state.

Even though I am a republican, the job that Bredesen is doing is pretty good. I would probably vote for him the next election.

Dear Governor Bredesen, Thank you for your commitment to ethics in government. I can say after many years that I am proud of our governor. You're doing a fantastic job in all ways. I'm so glad I worked in your campaign. I base my vote on the person, not the party and I am so pleased with the job you're doing.

Thanks for the work cleaning up the ethics problems dating from previous years. My husband also agrees with me. You'll always have our support. Keep up the great work.
We state employees are also citizens of the state. We also do not like the waste and inconsistency we see in state government. I believe we too could have 'ethics committees' in the state branch offices. They would serve as peer 'watchdog groups'. (a new term would be better). We know better than anyone else what goes on and what people are 'getting away with' but believe we have no power to do anything about it.
I am in my belief that Tennessee politicians have deviated from the path of listening to their constituents to listening to the lobbyist and lining their pockets. Many of these career politicians have made millions of dollars to add to their coffers while eliminating much needed programs for the citizens of Tennessee. We need ethics reform and politicians need to be made accountable when they violate the public trust.
Without a doubt if anyone is accused, then they should not be allowed to serve until they are cleared, and if convicted they should be removed with no pension.
first get a better spell check - 2 typos in 1/3 of page are embarrassing for the governor
I agree that the anonymity of the alleged victim should be protected but only if the charge is found to be without merit. If the charge is not substantiated, then the accuser should be subjected to the same public exposure as the accused. Otherwise, the reputation of the accused is forever tainted by the accusation. The accuser should have to own some responsibility and be willing to.
I think the same rules and priority should apply also to racial and other forms of harassment.
I believe documentation of the accusation should be maintained but perhaps some details spared, particularly in the case of sexual harassment.
I believe in opening the records for public scrutiny would not only discourage false accusations but would also discourage harassment.
In a world so vile and wicked in a state and country so full of hope, it is a shame that we must keep tabs on everyone's actions. I feel full disclosure of all accounts and lobbying activities of any representative of our state on every level be made public to our residents.
Also need to include laws and policies related to "sexual harassment" charges against gov't employees.
PRAY earnestly to God then do what He tells you (us) to do. People need the fear of God then they will make good decisions. we cannot separate God from the state or anything else because He controls ALL. "in God we trust"
More stringent requirements on public disclosure and avoidance of conflicts of interest. Required period between executive branch or legislators working as lobbyists.
ENFORCE the laws that exist.
I believe responsible spending is also EXTREMELY important and to mispend is deceitful, irresponsible and UNETHICAL towards the people of Tennessee. ELIMINATE WASTEFUL SPENDING and the budget will amazingly come into balance.
It is unethical for public officials to NOT have managed TN Care for the past decade and just let it get out of control. It is also unethical (and/or morally wrong) to deny any of our citizens health care. The "ethical" solution to health care in TN would be for the whole system of care in TN to be changed. This includes everybody. A single payer system is one solution for this.
First of all, influencing a lawmaker by professional, hired lobbyists should be outlawed at the state and federal level. Secondly, the legislature should be more aggressive in policing its own house and weeding out those bad apples that have shown their willingness to improve their personal gain at the expense of integrity, honesty and trust. The code of ethics should be taken even more seriously than balancing the budget !!
there is always someone in the line up of state officials (as in all aspects of life and business) that are out to look after their own interests and not those they have been elected to represent. Always has been and always will be. I think it is admirable that you try to do something about it but I also think you are too idealistic. However, the attempt should be made. Head on.
first of all Your Honor, I don't feel that the government can police itself. I think most public servants are working for the best interest of the majority; however, the few corrupt servants are going to be protected

by their own. The same is in law enforcement, medicine, etc. You need a non bias group to oversee the process.

The legislature needs strict rules with respect to finances and lobbying, however it would be very difficult to imagine that they would pass it.

You are setting an outstanding example as Governor.

With respect to state employment investigations a balance must be reached between the open records act and victim's and accused rights. At the present time the public has unquestioned confidence in you integrity and decision making process. However, not every Governor in the past, nor every Governor in the future will enjoy the same public respect. Accordingly, some safeguard must be built in the system that protects the victims and the accused.

Ethics are unwritten expectations of a group or society. They are unenforceable in a legal sense. I propose instead we develop a minimum standards of conduct and make it laws with sanctions and ensure that it is enforced. The dictionary defines ethics as among other things as the moral principles of an individual. That means I can do whatever I want and get away with it. Forget ethics and make laws specific.

PS You did not put any occupation choice concerning religion. That should tell you something about the viability of ethics in Tennessee.

Judicial System should enforce child support laws. Employees in Nashville working on child support orders/laws need to be aware of when child support is not sent in a period of 90 days and revoke drivers license. The higher the amount of arrears, the higher the consequence. Incarceration should be increased to fit the arrears.

Tenn Care needs to be aware of people working and on TennCare.

People charged with DUI/Meth/Substance abuse do not need to be given chance after chance. They need to be incarcerated and removed from the community.

Legislators get too many perks from lobbyists. It is too big a temptation. They get to sit up there and take all the gravy while state employees cannot even accept a cup of coffee without being suspect.

Legislators need to be held accountable for more and have to be forced to disclose more. Sen. Ford being able to get away with using funds from his office for shipping personal items was a prime example of someone doing wrong, admitting and just going right on. Why was nothing done?

I fully support ethics reform within the State and hopefully this will trickle down to the local level as well. I am a registered nurse and worked with a large MCO involved in Tenn Care and am aware of the past problems with lobbyists and others who directly and/ or indirectly cost the State hundreds of thousands of dollars in misappropriated funds. I am also ashamed of the recent behavior uncovered in Nashville with our own elected officials! I appreciate Governor Bredesen's timely responses regarding those charged and his efforts to avoid this happening again in the future.

I say treat government officials that are proven unethical (Like taking bribes) just like a drug dealer and seize all his assets, get his or her pension taken away, and put them in jail. I know it sounds tough but I believe anyone would think twice about how they deal with the public's trust if they knew what the consequences are. Why should the laws be tough on the poor only, when the rich and famous can get away with their crimes with only a slap on the wrist.

Just like our doctors and ministers, our legislators should be beyond reproach. Strict guide lines of behavior are essential. Penalties are necessary when this trust is broken including jail sentences loss of pension etc.

Banks have federal auditors to make sure they are in compliance with federal regulations, and they are powerful; this state needs an independent state ethics commission with strong enforcement powers to review all. Citizens are too close to these people to be involved and lack the power.

All public officials and employees should be subject to the same ethics rules. Lobbying activities should be closely monitored as should campaign finance. I find it absolutely appalling that former Sen. Ford had the audacity to use campaign funds for his daughter's wedding reception. How is that acceptable? Former Sheriff Fate Thomas was imprisoned for much more minor infractions. In apply for financial aid (FAFSA) for my son's college education, I had to give extensive information about my family's financial

affairs. Why should lawmakers be any different?

As far as the sexual harrassment issue, all people should be treated in the same way, shredding of documents included.

It appears SOME politicians succum to Lobbyists, so sereverely limit lobbying "payoffs, dinners, etc." and impeach the politicians that abuse our trust by "selling out" to these lobbyists.

All campaign finances should be a matter of public record, and the public should know (before an election) who was being financed by what.

Regarding Commissioner White, it seems our politicians need to be placed under more scrutiny by whatever agency/department is responsible for seeing who's doing what!!!

This looks like a good start.

Please correct spelling of ethics in your email.

I applaud strengthening ethics laws. Those in charge should be held accountable to enforce the laws. It is better to write a law

that is enforceable than to have a law that is unrealistic and unenforceable

Shortly after I moved to Tennessee in 1989, I attended a meeting of a PAC, and was told by its lobbyist that he had to hand Sen. Ford \$5,000 to get his support on a bill. Thus, I have known for years that Sen. Ford could be bought - in fact required money to support anything, frequently taking money from both sides of an issue. My question is, if I knew this, was I that much smarter than his honest colleagues (assuming there are any)in the TN legislature, or was there no mechanism to let them act to rid themselves of vermin like him? Is there any way to empower people within the legislature to speak up without sounding like they are doing so for political reasons?

A group that is unrelated to governor should police them. They should have no dealings or no relationship with legislators. Government should be audited on a regular basis and financially and personally accountable for all they do; otherwise, we don't want them to run our government.

I believe that in a just and responsible society there is little need for codifying what is already common knowledge. Unfortunately, the behavior of a few and resulting perception of the whole have made ethics reform a top of mind issue. I have come to accept the reality that those who can ý will. That being said, it seems to me that the only real recourse is to not draft an unenforceable code of conduct, but write legislation that strictly prohibits that which it does not condone. Draw the circle clear and tight and require all changes to the legislation be made in the full light of day. lým sure over time and under scrutiny, the boundaries will seek their own level of good stewardship.

It is quite obvious that there will be no repercussions for the unethical way that many of our legislators have been conducting business---because they have "not broken any laws". If there are no laws against their activities, then they can continue to act in their irresponsible ways. Just because there is no law against something, does not mean it is right and/or moral. There should be FULL disclosure on every level, conflicts of interests should be eliminated (such as Naifeh's wife's lobbying activities-or he should quit), and if there are ethical violations, then those guilty should be permanently banned from government and their pensions revoked. While charges are being investigated, they sahould be suspended without privileges. Why are they so much better/more entitled than those who trusted and elected them?

We can make TN stronger by enforcing the appropriate ethics standards by which all politicians need to adhere.

Call a special session!

I believe all the current lobbying activities need to be rethought. Its really discouraging to believe that State Reps. and Senators are getting all these "purks" when what they are really doing is taking bribes.

As far as the recent events with lawmakers being arrested for various charges is horrible. Yes they should loss any pension or retirement benefits when they are convicted of the crime. But dont make the penalties for state employees who are convicted to wide sweeping. If you get a misdeamonor charge I dont believe you should loss your retirement but a felony is a different story. And to when do these crimes apply. While the empoloyee is at work doing state business. By all means they should loss their retirment but if on their own time and the charge is minor. I dont think the law should effect their

retirement.
I believe there should be a review board created to evaluate city mayors, such as Mr Willie Herenton of Memphis, TN. Separate the state into 3 sections, Eastern, Middle and Western. A board should be created to report directly to the governor about the conduct of the city mayor and his city council members.
I AM NOT SURE HOW TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION. I THINK YOU MAY NEED TO CLEAN HOUSE FIRST, THEN YOU CAN WORK ON CHANGING/AMENDING LAWS SO THAT ONE DOESN'T WANT TO DO SOMETHING THAT IS WRONG.
The governor needs to explicitly expand the scope of the investigation to include ethics in his own administration.
Memphis politics is more openly corrupt than New Orleans at its height. It extends to the state level and probably to the federal level. Campaign finance reform for all officials is a must. Legislators are bought by the groups that provide the largest amount of money, whether it be legalization of resale of government computers or legislating medical privileges to those who are not physicians. This also applies to tort reform.
On another subject, I have been against TennCare and the corruption that has been associated since its inception. However, your administration is cutting off disabled and poor patients that should be receiving Medicaid benefits. I know this program is very costly but it is imperative that no people who are eligible for Medicaid be turned away from their benefits. While the medical costs to the state will be less, they will be shifted to physicians, and hospitals. This will eventually be shifted to the counties who have budgetary problems of their own. I agree with reducing
The first thing that comes to mind is that no one related to a person holding elected office in the state of Tennessee should be employed as a lobbyist. Secondly no elected official should receive a gift of any kind from a lobbyist. If a bill comes up before either house in the legislature and can affect directly or indirectly any business in which a legislator or member of their immediate family has a vested interest, that legislator should not vote on that bill
Use the same legislated requirements of ethical practice as in all other professions. Consider the fallacies of the convicted white collar criminals.
enforce the policies and fairly punish for violations
The committee needs to pay close attention to disclosure requirements for state employees. Also, what about ethics of conflict of interest? Is there a loop-hole?
elderly
tn. care & the elderly/disabled. I know you have been bombarded with comments concerning tn. care. Let me say first that something needed to be done, however canceling tn. care for all is not a solution for the problem. My reasoning is not only my disabled mother but many other elderly or disabled that I know have received letters of cancellation from tn. care that are now left to fend for themselves. Being a state employee myself I understand your reasoning in stopping the abuse of tn. care, but to cancel the people that actually relies on this program to live I don't understand. I'm asking for an ethical look at your tenn. elders & disabled who are looking to you for help. If you have a better plan in action to take care of your seniors & disabled then my hats off to you, if not I ask that not only you, but your staff take a closer look at who your executing. Even your death row inmates have the right to appeals before hand. Thank you for your time & concern.
I think you're doing a fine job with what you're doing. I do think that ethics is of the utmost importance. We definitely need ethical people in our State and Federal governments. It's hard to say what we could do to make the laws stronger; however, we could start with stronger penalties for those who violate our ethics laws.
There are already 'laws' in place to deal with various behaviors of those that are supposed to represent and work for the State. The Governor's Group is full of people that may have little in common with me or those I know. Enforce the laws we have and get the two houses off their backsides and be honorable law-abiding elected officials. You spend so much for a job that pays so little yet come out worth more than going in. I expect nothing to change except more 'thou shalt's' and 'thou shalt not's' that will somehow only impact upon the average work stiff rather than the intended target of state elected officials. Check out the ethics standards for Fed. employees and implement and save some money.
When you say something do it and before you do it, you should get the opinion of the people (especially

state employees). I am a Knox County teacher (7yrs) and my husband is too (10years). We have two children ( 3 years old and a 14 month old). I would love for them to be a part of the Pre-K program, but because of our income they can't participate. There are enough programs for at- risk children (Headstart,CDC Pre-school, Child Find,etc.) What about the true working class? I understand the importance of an excellent education and I wanted my children to be a part of this too. It is only fair to open the Pre-K program to everyone right now and it work on a first come first serve basis. I shouldn't have to lie, cheat, steal, and live in the projects to have my children to be a part of something so great! This is how I view ethics (treat everyone equal) and this is how Dr. King would have viewed this issue. Thanks

Increase penalties, at the very least to eliminate public assistance to huge violators such as Mr. Ford. The pension & fringes are earned, but they must be honestly earned for me to feel like saying "thank you" for life.

ALSO, please include strong educational language for VOTERS. We elect our representatives and I think we have a responsibility to monitor them AND to withhold votes from representatives who fleece the public treasury. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out when someone is shady, if you really pay attention. We need to ask our representatives questions about where they got the money on a part-time job to buy their second, third, and fourth houses. It's just that simple. The voters have a responsibility, and I don't want to see us shirk it and think we've covered it by sloughing off on another committee, also appointed by a political entity. We've got so many layers now, that it's easy for easy money to slip in and out of rat holes. Example, TennCare, where three or four dif

I am not familiar with current ethics guidelines on the books. Maybe we just need to brush the dust off current laws and enforce them. What are other states doing? Maybe we don't need to re-invent the wheel.

Get rid of the established corrupt power structure. The speaker of the house is an embarrassment to Tennessee. Expanding committees just to put a friend on and being sold bold and brazer is just a symptom of a much deeper problem. Until there is true accountability in terms of real races (not shams) politics as usual will continue to rule. Democrats and Republicans are both to blame but Democrats share the most responsibility because of their control of the house and de facto control of the senate and certainly the governor's office. I think Phil would be a good governor but I have seen no changes; TDOT is still arrogant, lazy, doesn't do work on time and has the inability to tell the truth. That was a big campaign promise that has gone unfilled.

1. The rules should apply to local government elected officials as well. 2. While lobbyists cannot pay the legal expenses of elected officials, their clients can. Paying an elected officials bills or expenses is a way for interested parties to contribute to an official w/o limits or reporting. This needs to be stopped. 3. Off year campaign fund financial reporting should be made every 6 months. 4. Campaign and lobbying records should be available for anyone to see via the internet.

I am a State Employee who was slapped on the rear end by a vet rep several years ago, I did not ask for it and was treated to all the little things that go along with someone TELLING. YES you need ethics reform in State government. You need to look real hard at the people you have in place in management in this state. I cannot get promoted or get on any registers that say years of service can stand for education and these are jobs I could do and would love to try for. The folks down at the middle and bottom of the rung are the ones who would and could rally and stand behind you but it never seems to happen for us. I make starting pay after 14 years, where is the ethics in that? What about improper relationships between managers and subordinates, how hostile is that work environment. YES you need ethics reform but you need better people than you have now enforcing those policies and laws. I firmly belive Gov if you will stand with those of us down here where the rubber meets the road and listen to us t

Without full disclosure of all contributions (in for anything), people and organizations will learn to get around the disclosure limits. I've worked with a large corporation and know first hand how contributions are limited so that disclosure rules are not broken but the corporation still gets control by being responsible for the contributions. Anything other than full disclosure is a waste of time.

Save the money used on this stupid site, and these stupid emails to save Tenn Care for the elderly. leaving thousands of elderly men and women without healthcare is unethical!

I think there should be distinct limits placed on each activity and serious consequences for violation. Annual disclosure should be the norm, and loss of position for any violation. I think today's citizen, and

<p>politician do not think there are consequences for any behavior which violates our moral fiber.</p> <p>I am very concerned about knee jerk reactions to public officials that do not allow for human error. However that should be evidenced in ALL levels of government. In terms of harrassment issues of a sexual nature, there should be extensive training about what constitutes a violation. This should include that employees may be spending the majority of their waking hours at their jobs. It may at times be inevitable that people will meet and want to pursue a romantic relationship or even a casual encounter. I don't think everyone of those times should equal draconian institution of rigid rules.</p> <p>close all loopholes that allow individuals/companies easy access for personal gains, and make them more accountable for their actions.</p> <p>Legislators should not be allowed any perks, etc from lobbyist All campaign contributions should be made public. Legislators are required to represent the people and to make laws for the good of the people therefore penalties for breaking laws or ethics rules should be more harsh, swiftly and strictly applied.</p> <p>I believe that most, if not all, of our elected representatives are honest, hardworking individuals who are making a personal financial sacrifice to serve our State. It is important to make rules that are not so stringent or ridiculous that good people will refuse to serve for fear of inadvertently tripping over one of them.</p> <p>A reform which I believe should be seriously considered is to raise the salary of the senators and representatives to a level that reflects a full year's salary for the work they do. With committees and constituent work at home, they work year round anyway. That will relieve the financial pressure some of them feel having to hold a full time job at home and a full time, part paid job in Nashville. It might also attract other capable candidates to Legislative service. As an example, the salaries of the Tennessee judiciary were raised dramatically 20 or so years ago, and the long term result has been a marked improvement in the quality of judges who serve.</p> <p>With respect to the Ten</p> <p>I, like you, am not a Tn. native but have been here a long time and I am highly embarrassed every time I hear in the media how unethical our elected officials have become. I think that all of an elected official's activities should be disclosed for anyone to see and that they should be reomved from office if any laws are broken.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Require all members of the Tennessee Legislature to disclose all financial information - both personal and public.</li> <li>2. Require all lobbyists to disclose any type of expenditure, both cash and in-kind expenses, associated with their activities involving state issues, legislation or current business.</li> <li>3. Review the policy and procedure concerning the payment of retirement funds for members or former members of the Legislature. If convicted of a crime that took place while they were serving their term in office, Tennessee should revoke their retirement. The individual should all so be required to repay the state for any expended retirement funds.</li> <li>4. If a member of the Legislature is indicted for a crime, the individual should be suspended, without any form of compensation, from their office position until proven guilty. If the official is convicted of a crime, implement recommendation number 3.</li> <li>5. Strengthen the newly formed Ethics Committee and provide them with oversight authority over the Legislature'</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) There should be an outright prohibition on former legislators taking on lobbyist roles for a minimum of six years.</li> <li>(2) There should be an outright ban on any and all gifts, "lunches," "junkets," or whatever they're calling them nowadays to any current legislators.</li> <li>(3) There should be a completely independent enforcement office/agency staffed by experienced investigators and support personnel whose sole job is to continually investigate any hints, rumors, or open allegations of ethical violations. Anyone talking to current and former legislators knows there were</li> </ol>
---

rumors about Ford for years. Why did it take so long for someone to try to either confirm or invalidate them?

(4) With all due respect, Gov. Bredesen, you also need to quit appointing only politicians and muckety-mucks to your panels and advisory boards including ethics. While I'm sure at least some of these VIPs have boatloads of experiences and abilities to bring to the table, it just smacks of the common man not being valued for his/her

The state of Tennessee does need reform in state, federal and local government. My suggestions are volunteers, no salaries, only stipends. Reimbursements limits on monies spent for travel, hotel, and car rental. The state and agency set the fee, and facility for use. Limit on top level management positions salaries, especially those agencies that are new and have no proven record of control over expenditures. This would avoid such problems that we see with TennCare. This is a good program, for those who have no healthcare in the state of Tennessee. It started off with minimal staff and no high overhead but soon change with top heavy management, and runaway pharmacy benefits. This program can work, but needs overhaul at the top level not lower level an constant management of pharmacy benefits, home health, and therapies. I worked in the healthcare profession as a nurse for a TennCare MCO.

To regain our trust, must stop shredding documents, prosecute the lawmakers that stole from TennCare and from the people of Tennessee. Stop allowing people of power in controlling others due to affairs like at other workplaces like "pam using her influence due to an extramarital affair with a person of higher power" and gets away with treating decent hardworking people badly and unfairly because they can get away with it. This sort of thing needs to stop, it is everywhere. All the TennCare money needs to be paid back by persons like Ford etc, this would be a giant step of earning our trust.

I think Gov. Bredesen is doing a great job regarding Tennessee's ethics laws. Doing the right thing does not always please everyone but in the long run, you can never go wrong doing what is right.

Unfortunately, the ethics legislation that was passed this past session was so weak it was laughable. Until the legislators get serious about doing the people's business rather than protecting their own financial self interest and that of family members directly involved in lobbying activities, Tennessee will remain a state of good ole boys and girls doing what they do naturally; self-promotion. There are some good, decent people in our legislature but, sadly, they are in the minority. I don't have a solution to the problem if the legislature is the only governmental body who can decide ethics legislation. They have clearly demonstrated they have no intention of getting tough on themselves. Somehow, ethics reform has to be taken out of their hands.

I have the upmost admiration for Gov. Bredesen and his attempts to bring decency to our state government and I wish him well with what appears to be an almost insurmountable problem.

Please make each area accountable. Public money is used and the public needs to know that money is not wasted.

I think Gov. Bredesen needs to be on a strong offensive regarding sexual harassment issues. Shredding of related documents couldn't look worse. While I believe the Tennessean has gone overboard with their attack, it is imperative that ethics includes sexual harassment.

Governor,

I suggest that you start by making sure that everything that occurs in your cabinet and among your administrators is in the sunshine. Also, foster legislation that will require lobbyists to report all contacts (telephone, email, mail,

personal) they make with legislators.

I have worked for Tennessee for 33 years and am honored to have done so. I think every employee of the State should be held to a higher standard than non-employees. It is time for people to step up to the plate and set a moral example for our children, grandchildren, and people who were not fortunate enough to have decent role models. If any employee, teacher, or government official is not willing to do that, they should look elsewhere for employment.

You can start by not killing so many people. Without Tenn Care they will die.

I think political action committees should NOT be able to contribute money to ANY campaign in ANY AMOUNT! I believe in "One person one vote". Effectively, people get two votes (more influence) when their political group can offer money, or goods in lieu of money, to politicians or political candidates. If



people want a PAC to get their point of view out fine, but they should not be able to financially make any contribution whatsoever. Any campaign contributions should be solely from individuals, and not from pooled monies. That keeps it easy to control the amount that can be contributed, and it can all be traced back to its individual sources easily. No person or group should have more influence on our government than any other.

Most citizens believe that legislation is influenced by special interest money fed into the system through lobbyists, campaign contributions, etc. Political influence is oftentimes peddled to the highest bidder which directly influences legislation that is passed. Many times the influencing party actually prepares the law itself. People have little faith that their government actually exists to protect the public interest. While there are certainly fine, well-intentioned legislators, people believe that there is far too much allowance of influence in government, including the judicial system, by monied special interests. It is frankly an outrage that it took a federal investigation to uncover a cesspool of corruption. We can make Tennessee's ethics laws stronger by requiring full disclosure of and strict controls on campaign financing, full disclosure of and strict controls on lobbyists' money spent, and full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by legislators. There should be criminal penalties

Governor Bredesen has made a very BIG mistake by cancelling TennCare, even though he only got elected because he came into this office saying that he would reform TennCare and let everyone that needs it keep it. How has he done this??

can you tell me what is being done to help the exploited women and children in the Congo?

Do not let them change our parks and national monuments name. Only the scum of the earth would do such. If people want their name in history; let them accomplish their own goals. Our own flesh and blood was the front line of all battle cries. Please stop the people from destroying our past history. History made belongs to everyone, no certain race. If it was not for the history of our past; we would not be able to enjoy the things we have today. I've four relatives that fought in the civil war. If our Government lets the Memphis City Council get by with this; you can say your farewells to the Memphis area. Do not let unethical politics stand in the way of stopping them!!

The legislator's disregard for ethical behavior is appalling. The fact that Mr. Naffee would say there is NO problem sickens me.

Institute laws that require full disclosure of lobbyist monies.

Prosecute to the highest degree those convicted of fraud.

Good job on the TennCare issue !!

There will always be unethical people involved in all levels of government. Unfortunately, the bad ones reflect poorly on those of us (28 years with Shelby County) who are not unethical.

The entire election process will have to, somehow, be reworked. As long as people make "deals" in order to get elected the ethics are out the window. When elected, an official has to repay the "favor" of whomever obliged him or her to help them get elected. It shouldn't cost an arm and a leg to get elected to public office. Only people with substantial funds or the "promise" of funds (that ethics thing again) are able to even get in the race. The common everyday person has no hope of ever being able to run a campaign and get elected.

It is important that the penalties that are imposed are severe enough that they are a deterrent to ethics violations. Otherwise, there is no point in having laws or penalties. People cannot be taught to be ethical, but they can be persuaded to follow the rules so they will not get into trouble. Close scrutiny and stiff penalties will help the unethical to practice good ethics.

**REQUIRE THAT NO PAID LOBBYISTS ARE TO CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF STATE GOVERNMENT. THAT NO MEMBER OR FAMILY WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIRECT STATE BUSINESS.**

How could Gov. Sundquist be asked to lead a Medicaid task force.

I am republican and voted for him and the current president and yes Bredesen. But I do not see Sundquist as a Medicaid expert. That is where government fails the people. They hire cronies for jobs that they are not qualified for. It is unethical.

There will always be people who will act unethical. The State needs clear guidelines of what will not be

tolerated. When there is an accusation of those guidelines being broken an impartial panel need to investigate and if the individual is found to be in violation the action against them need to be swift and sure.

Hi,

I don't know how many of the Citizens Commission will read this but, heeded, all your questions on ethics will be answered.

#### The Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.
4. Honour thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Very Simple, Treat the legislature just like everyone else. When they are proven guilty punish them just like the everyday man. Quit hiding their indiscretions or denying the problem. Gov. Bredesen you seem like a man of your word. Clean up the mess called Tennessee gov. from the inside out.

Not sure where to direct my comment, so please note.

Was robbed, lost drivers license, etc. Went to Jackson, TN testing station, with a color photo of my license, birth certificate, social security card and a Tennessee State Registered Nurses license. Was denied license until producing a passport, or a utility or phone bill with my name on it.

A man, non English speaking, of Far Eastern origin was behind me in line. He presented a cell phone bill through an interpreter from Brownsville, TN and received a valid drivers license. He was not asked to show a passport. I was born in Bells, Tennessee, and have worked in Tennessee all my life. What is wrong with the rules of the system? I drove 30 miles home, got a 30 year old passport, went back and received a license. No person offered an explanation or apology. I have lost my freedom!!

Law makers such as those in the recent FBI Operation are an embarrassment to the entire State! We, the ordinary citizens depend, expect and trust our legislators to abide by the same ethical standards that we are held to in our jobs and personal lives. Any breach of this trust is grounds for removal from office - immediately in my humble opinion.

We need ban any immediate family member of lawmakers from lobbying.

Elected Officials & Public Servants need to be governed by a CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY more rigid than any Fortune 500 Companies policy. Pay the elected officials more and allow nothing over \$25.00 Lobbyist don't exist in this environment and everything is disclosed. Penalties for violation are severe.

The Comptroller's Office should be in charge of ethics investigations and "audit" ethics of departments.

Instead of using the valuable resources of the Comptroller's Office to see if an agency spent less than \$100 on an item that is at Central Stores, the manpower, credibility, and independence would be better utilized investigating ethics issues before the media discovers them. There should be "whistle blower" protection of state employees who could lead you to ethics issues to be resolved before they become an issue. State employees are not "insiders" in the legislative arena, but certainly are in the cabinets. Also, the agencies and commissions under the direction of Boards should be reined in under the Governor's supervision. Governor Bredesen is credible and wonderful Governor. We need to save him from embarrassing employees who have no respect for the taxpayers and their fellow employees.

No one is above the law, even those that make the law. If someone is elected by the people to public office that person should be held to the standards and laws that govern the office. Allowing an elected official to circumvent the system or to not answer to rules and regulations set forth can only bring disillusion and lack of trust from the very people that elected them.

All people should be treated equally and unfortunately some people are said to be held to a higher standard, i.e, politicians, police officers, judges, etc. While this may not be fair it is the truth and these type of people can only do what is right and live the example the people need to follow.

To give someone the power to make decisions over our everyday lives is a giant step. The direction that step and the many to follow are up to the person in their particular position. Whether they abuse that position or not is up to them.

I believe mandatory disclosures should be strictly enforced, as well as the punishments that go along with

I think it is necessary to make examples of those who violate the trust they are given when elected to office in our state. It is evident from recent events that we have some state office holders that feel they are above the law. If they violate ethics laws they should not be able to draw a pension or any other state benefits. We must do all possible to eliminate the power of the lobby groups that throw dollars at our representatives to buy votes for their cause. Lets start by putting laws in place that will encourage representatives to look out for the people and not themselves. Require full disclosure of all income streams for both campaign finance and personal income. Let's open our eyes to crime no matter who commits it, especially our trusted leaders. Thanks for this opportunity.

We need to get tougher on these crooks. My area has just recently disposed of on notorious John Ford from the state senate. This guy still will receive a pension from the state larger than most citizen's salaries. Get tougher with the laws - strip pensions for violators and add some prison time.

The views I express pertain to federal as well as state politicians. 1. if you run for office do it with your own money. why is it necessary to obtain millions of dollars to get a job that pays less than 100,000?

2. Lobbyist's shouldn't exist. Period.

3. If I have to disclose what I make and spend...so should politicians.

4. If you are caught swaying to a particular side due to how much money is offered or what they can do for the politician they should go to jail. Felony conviction. Period.

5. I am almost to the point to where I refuse to vote. Why should I put another crook in office? The old saying is true... no politician likes an honest politician. What we need are people not politician's in office.

What laws we have now are not being enforced by the District Att.

office. What good is it if we don't enforce the laws we have now by making more laws. We need to cut out all lobbying money to individuals in all branches of government. No more studies are needed. Just obey the laws we have now! Also, the sunshine law was originated for this very same reason. How come we still have the secret meetings? Once this law is broken the legislators should be booted out since they serve the people no more but bow to special interests.

The first thing we can do is hold elected officials accountable for the way they do business. I think we should put some type of performance review process in place that is made public. Let the general public know how our elected officials are performing on a regular basis.

Set very specific limits on contributions. Put all government contracts out for bids prior to awarding them.

Put strict penalties in place and enforce them fairly across the board.

Contact some of the large corporations and find out how they handle ethical issues within their companies. I think this would be a great place to start.

jail time

The Citizen Advisory Group on Ethics is a waste of time. The Good Old Boy Network and Lobbist Control and run the USA. From the White House down to even the smallest town.

The good citizens of this state has long ago realized that the lobbyist and not the legislature, have actually run this state since at least 1975 . It's obvious to the average citizen when the legislature passes laws that hurt them and helps lobbyist, who's in charge and exactly whom the representatives are working for. Most of those so called law makers have been in office so long that the definition of ethics have become blurred and they can't tell right from wrong .To them ,it seems,that it's just business as usual and this is how it's supposed to work . If something isn't done soon to change this thinking, I fear the good citizens of this state will revolt . I find it funny that every one that I talk to, 300 + people a day at work all think the legislature is on the take,but the legislature doesn't think there is any thing wrong the way business is conducted on the "hill" . They are so disconnected from the real world that,I feel , some lawmakers really don't know right from wrong.It's time for the represe

Money, benefits, or favors should not be extended to legislators or government officials and lobbyists or special interest groups. The focus should be on the issues that are confronting the state. Material benefits such as money should not be part of the process. Legislators should be persons who are committed to improving the welfare of the state, its citizens, and the environment of the state, to include its government. State officials seem to have passed by that for personal benefits and rewards.

The letter prefacing this questionnaire includes misspelling of "ethics" twice. That is no doubt a slip, but a meaningful slip in that persons do not attend to the letter and particularly to the spelling of the word, "ethics".

I think Mr. Cody and the rest will do a fine job with ethics reform. Whatever you do please,please DO NOT let Steve Cohen anywhere near ethics reform. I also think you should take Steve's hard drive and see how many letters from his law firm are on it.

Today's editorial cartoon in the TENNESSEAN is right on target. I suppose the problems can be traced to individual's greedy thirst for power and money, money and more money. If your new Advisory Committee doesn't get it right, nothing will change.

This is off the topic of the highlighted areas related to ethics, but I wanted to comment on the recent questions surrounding harassment investigations in the state government. I would like to encourage the governor to stay on course in terms of dealing with these situations quickly and firmly. I have been very impressed with the action taken (I investigate sexual harassment cases for UT, so I understand the competing concerns) by the governor when it appears that policy has been violated. The procedures can always be cleaned up, but should not be used as a reason to not take action

I can honestly say that the government does not have my trust, especially when it pertains to my future. They need to worry about more than just money in their funds and think about the things we need, we are the ones they should be serving, even old people.

We allow the nursing homes to kill people and then merely open under another name... while not allowing someone with MR to be spoken to in a harsh way. I think we need to look at the way our nursing homes are staffed in comparison to the developmental institutes. State mandates set the ratio on our centers, while nursing homes merely have to worry with it when the State licensors come to inspect, adding more staff during that time, but normally having 2-3 staff for 30 people or more.

Do not get me wrong, I think all people should be treated fairly and equally. But who are we to say that the rights of an MR individual are more important than people who have merely grown old and need some help with their living as well? We will spend millions o

You can start with Jimmy Naifeh. His wife is a paid lobbyist. I have been told that she is paid by the tobacco lobbyists which would certainly explain why we cant get any anti-smoking laws passed in tennessee. Don't you think it might be a conflict of interest to allow a man whose wife is a paid lobbyist to

practically run the state. This is the one thing I will be looking for. If the Committee doesn't do anything about this, then they are just a smoke screen deceiving the public that ethics reform will really take place.
Enforcement with strict penalties
of those who do not comply.
Get rid of the lobbyists. Beef up penalties for ethics violations.
Continue the monitoring and examination of professionals who have been accused of ethics violations. The lieutenant governor who stated that the FBI has no right to investigate members of the legislature was a miscarriage of justice. He should be fired by his constituents.
I believe it has already started with Tennessee Waltz. John Ford should never have been in office as long as he was. A regular citizen would not have gotten away with shooting at a truck driver on I-40 or shooting at an MLGW worker. Those behaviors should have clued the legislative body in Nashville there were some underlying issues. I feel the first step is monitoring the behavior of elected officials and at least hold them to the same standards as the general public.
I believe it is critical that all members of the Ethics Committee and the legislators, including the governor complete ethics training. I do not mean a hour training session I would suggest a 2-3 day training session plus an annual one day session for all in government and each member of the government sign a pledge to follow ethic principles and the laws and policies related to ethics. Training that uses situations to show how one might react to ethical issues and dilemma and to ensure that they truly understand exactly what is an ethical issue. Having set up a Ethics Committee in a hospital setting and sitting on an Ethics Committee at a large academic center I find that there are those people who do not know that they are facing an ethical dilemma. Training and education of the Ethics Committee and the legislators is the key to ensuring that these group act in the best interest of the people of Tennessee. The principles of ethics are usually not truly understood by those in responsible for conducting the
Close review of existing policies regarding ethical political practices. Recent events of unethical political behavior calls for evaluation/revision of existing policy.
Open and honest publication of all monies received by a candidate and their family and their friends should be reported in order for the public to know what their public officials are receiving because of their office.
I strongly encourage not to require lobbyists to disclose income - disclose money spent on an event where a legislator is involved, lunch, dinner, party, or football tailgate. Their income is not as relevant as the money spent on legislators. And it is terribly demeaning to them.
Whatever the ethics law says should apply to legislators as well as state employees. I know state employees that have gotten in trouble for accepting a free item that comes with something they have purchased as part of their employment. I think ethics rules should be strict for all of state government but tempered with common sense. State employees cannot accept anything from any company who pays a lobbyist unless it is also available to the general public at a conference, etc.
At the present time I feel that 98% of those making our laws are on the take. I have always voted, always supported the Democratic Party and I am disgusted. The only way to control ethics is to control lobbying activities. I would be in favor of disallowing Campaign contributions all together and going back to handshakes and visits with common folks, however I know that thought is unrealistic. The general public is at an all time low in trusting politicians. I also believe that the general assembly made a grave mistake a few years ago when they passed a bill to allow promotions in the Dept. of Safety without testing. That is unethical in my opinion. Elected officials, state employees and others should stop this self-serving attitude and perform.
TERM LIMITS-
Do a survey of those who have violated rules of ethics and you might find that there "in office" time is much more than the average "in office" time.
Get rid of the Lobbyists, have the House and Senate disclose finances when they are supposed to and get rid of the ones that do not report on time, also Wilder needs to retire as does Neife.
stop working so closely with the media and the PR firms! Stop using ethics reform as an excuse for being unethical.
you can't stop the outrageous things the legislature people do. they will find a way to hide the money.

they were sent there with a debt to the people that paid to get them elected and those that paid to get them there had something they wanted or they wouldn't have spent money to get them elected. it's always been that way and it's getting worse. ex: the legislature has not done a thing for health care in tn because they were sent there to oppose a state income tax, not to fund healthcare.

Should be strict limit on amount of money lobbyists spend on/donate to politicians. Itemized list of politician's activities with lobbyists should be required for submission to an ethics committee, and vice versa.

Consistency and accountability for all citizens, whether in regards to TNCare applicants or elected officials.

I applaud your efforts. The Ford resignation was a long time coming. Maybe other legislators will heed the warning that Tennesseans are tired of the corruption the has dominated Tennessee politics for decades.

All other professions must function ethically, why not politicians. Accountability needs to be at the top of any ethics change. All legislators need to report their activities for the entire year publicly.

Another issue is the abuse of moneys supposedly used for security of legislators. The Gov. definitely, but legislators are not of the same caliber and do not need special attention or moneies spent for such matters.

Open ALL sessions to the media... there's no better watchdog than them.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to this issue. To me, our elected officials are to represent the will of the people. The news presented in the newspaper does not always give an unbiased few of the actual facts. I try to keep current w/the issues that are affecting our state. I feel Governor Bredesen has done a good job trying to straighten out some of the issues that have plagued our state. The one issue, which causes me concern is TennCare. When this program first started w/then Governor McWhertor, to me this program was initiated too quickly w/o thorough investigation of all aspects of the program. Today, I personally know someone who has been dropped from the program. This person has no income, cannot work due to work related injuries and has permanent health problems as a result of the work related accident. The story is too long to tell but bottom line, I would like to know the process that was used to determine who would be dropped from the TennCare program.

The program definitely nee

It must start at the top with the legislators first! Once that has begun then you could start with top management in with the state employees.

I honestly believe that anyone who holds an office in state government should not hire their relatives. When relatives are hired then the work gets slack because the one who has hired their brother, cousin etc, does not require them to do an efficient job and the salary is much higher than those who are hired and not related to someone in a government office. Also, as a state employee I see this happening in state departments, I understand that people need jobs, but if someone is hired they should not be supervised by a relative. Thank-you for all you are doing for this wonderful state of ours, in the past we have had governors who have been less than honest and ethical, it seems you are trying to correct this. Thank-you also for all you are trying to do for state employees and our salaries, we are on the low end of the totem pole when it comes to salaries, but this years raise was a little better raise than last.

I feel that the people not elected law makers should decide what should and should not be included.

Law makers only look at how they can make more money and not always at what is right and what is wrong.

Once upon a time it was an honorable job working for the people of Tennessee, but not any more.

Better enforcement of current laws and rules. Restructure to avoid the "power brokers" in the legislative process. When someone is trying to get progress into or arrives into these positions it becomes each for them to "look the other way".

Require all legislators and state employees to disclose all potential conflicts of interests annually and require if anything changes during that year that those changes should be reported immediately. Furthermore, independent employees should review all disclosures and carefully considered whether they acutally could cause a problem.

Honesty you to be automatic, but more concern now is on just being elected. I have been a State employee for 27 yrs. From inmates I earned my respect. My name is important to me than anything else. You cannot go wrong by being honest with everyone. God never said we wouldn't suffer by doing right, just the reward would be great.

I believe that as a Tennessean first, and a state employee second, it is my duty to uphold the ethics of this state. When I read the news that certain lawmakers, state employees, or anyone involved in the state is permitted to do anything that a normal tax-paying citizen would be prosecuted for, we have failed as a state and as a people. I have never been a fan of lobbyist, I find them repugnant. I also find anyone that caters to them to be weak minded. Campaign finance should be viewed as the responsibility of the person running for office, and not the responsibility of the tax-payer. As such, oversight should be a necessity, as lobbyists, etc. often use this as a means to control government officials. Please do whatever you can to strengthen our current laws, as well as enforce them.

I am a probation officer. Each year we are trained on our code of ethics, which holds us to the highest ethical standards. It is policy 202.01 of the Board of Probation and Parole. I suggest it as a guide.

Perhaps state law could forbid a legislator from working for a lobbying firm at all. Perhaps there could be a law compelling legislators to exclude themselves from participating in the discussion or vote on bills related to any business from whom they receive income. Whatever the laws any one found guilty of breaking them should be subject to severe punishment including but not limited to felony time, expulsion from the legislature, exclusion from future public office.

I am not certain of all the answers, but I do know that elected officials should hold to the highest ethical standards. It is a shame that the rest of us state employees are held to such standards while the legislature is not.

Out law lobby positions and firms - they are like consultants - useless, we do not need them in Tennessee or in the USA.

I think upper management needs to know - indeed should already know - that the law applies to everyone equally. The first sign that this is so would be the line staff being ethically compensated - just as upper management is. Tennessee is 49th in pay for most state employees but second in pay for upper management personnel - if this isn't an ethical breach I don't know what is. Line staff should be fairly compensated and loyalty and service should be rewarded. Instead, employees with 15 years of service are making pennies more than new employees. That is not only unethical - it is immoral. Governor Bredesen was elected by a large majority of state employees. He received the endorsement of our employee's association - and now after 2 years in office we are still not compensated fairly, our commissioner has resigned in disgrace, and before leaving - publicly humiliated corrections professionals by implying that we are all dealing drugs and being in gangs.

I tend to agree with the Governor's decision to destroy documents pertaining to harassment charges that were dismissed as unfounded. Being accused of such behavior can be as damaging to one's career as actually being found guilty, so if the charges are unfounded, then why keep a record? I feel that The Tennessean Newspaper is on a never ending witch hunt with the TDOC, as well as the Governor's administration as the prey. I am outraged by this paper, and their lack of concern for the careers of the people they victimize.

I would like to see more oversight on the front end, so TN doesn't wind up in the national news for negative things on the back end.

I strongly support requiring all lobbyists to report all contributions, gifts, etc., in a format that can be accessed through the internet. Recent events have proven that a transparent system is needed to prevent abuse. The lobbyists and many of our representatives will fight this tooth and nail, and it worries me that some cosmetic "patch" will be applied that makes a good sound bite, but doesn't address the real issue of restoring public confidence in the system. I urge you, Governor Bredesen, to stand firm. There is no doubt in my mind that your instincts are right on target. Don't let the special interests sway your resolve.

Sewanee, Tennessee

I feel no matter what your position is the same rules should apply to all. I feel that if you do wrong even if you are in higher government or lower position as long as you work for the public you should be held accountable for what you do and don't do.

Ensure the laws & policies are enforced.

The members of the state legislature should have the same ethics rules as the ordinary state employees. If they as representatives of the citizens of the state expect to hold the ordinary employees to a standard that they do not themselves meet then they should be forced by outside reviewers to meet a more strict standard.

Lobbyists should be required to disclose all of their expenses and payments for or to all state officials and/or their families and related businesses.

Legislators who violate any ethics rules should be expelled from the legislature. All financial violations should be repaid to the state's general fund.

Should the Governor decide there should be an independent investigative unit to follow up on ethics complaints, the Office of Inspector General would be honored to assist.

ALL elected officials from city/county governments to Federal offices should be required to disclose ALL funds received be it \$5 or \$5000.

No person, group, entity should be allowed to donate more than \$1,000 to any candidate or political party.

We have too many lobbyists that have a lot of buying power. We should be doing what is best for the people. If you have money you have power. We need to eliminate the big money when politicians are running for office. If they are caught doing things like our politicians now they should lose all benefits. They should not receive the big retirement benefits that they have set up. This should have never happen anyway. They have set it up for them to receive high retirement pensions. It is getting to the point that we do not know who to trust in public office.

Please tighten the ethics policies and set up an enforcement mechanism. I live in the Chattanooga area and am embarrassed by the recent events involving our state legislators. Unfortunately, I believe this may be only the tip of the iceberg.

Enforcement of existing laws is probably sufficient. In addition, I have noted that the recent mandatory classes on "Respectful Workplace" have begun to produce an atmosphere of paranoia--excellent breeding grounds for someone with a grudge to make a mountain out of a molehill. I think common sense and good judgement are much more effective than the 'government big stick'.

The only idea that I could really share is to drive home the point that regardless of one's station in life there are & will be penalties for wrongdoings. It is a shame that hearings must be initiated to tell people to do the right thing to begin with.

You are not the problem Boss, it's some of your state employees and some of your elected that forget why we are serving the public. I ask you for a job, I will be the first to know if the duties are not being done effectively and efficiently. Need to be able to replace non productive workers Sir. Takes forever to terminate and even longer to back fill the position. Then also you have shops that are producing yet way under staffed. Put the people where the productivity is at. Lack of staff can lead to short cuts and/or, who, gets my attention. Thank you for you

First of all, no laws, rules, regulations mean anything unless they are enforced.

TennCare would not be in the financial shape it is in, if the original rules for guidance had been enforced.

I feel the current ethics laws should simply be enforced. I would like to see campaign finance restrictions all levels of government. A level "playing field" encourages more involvement, while at the same time encourages candidates to be more creative and honest in their campaign platforms.

Thank you for your time.

I feel that setting term limits would help.

Come on, do the right thing! Stop splitting hairs. You know right from wrong. You all are smart people.

1. Enforce/increase penalties for infractions. Remove lobbyists from attending legislative meetings/boards/committees.

I believe that the Governor is off to an excellent start, and that he should continue in the direction that he is going. I feel that our state government should be more visible to the public. I also believe that an effort should be put forth to show on a regular basis exactly what it is that we do as public servants. The public needs to see that we are doing a good job, but also needs to see that we are held accountable if we



abuse their trust or their funds. This should be from the highest level of government and all of the way down to the front line.
More of a system of checks for campaign and lobby spending and favors. I think our system is in need of an adjustment, not a complete rework. A fine tuning after many years of use.
The Executive and Legislative branch should make any harrassment records of a legislator or member of the Governor's staff public upon request while protecting the identity of the accuser.
This is, first of all, an issue that will not be fixed on a one-time attempt at reform. This problem in TN has been ongoing. It is because of a lack of leadership...at the highest level. When individuals go into this "noble" profession to become powerful and wealthy...then that's the wrong thing. Service to the people of TN is the real job...unfortunatly, most realize this is to serve themselves. Where are the real leaders in this state? They don't want to serve because the system is broke, self serving, and corrupt. Mr. Ford, Gov. Sundquist, Ms Macmillan, and others are there or have been there for their own self serving needs. Hey, let's face it...that 16K job nets them hundreds of thousands of dollars!
When will the real leaders step up...will it be you? So far, we don't know....
I worked in the healthcare industry for many years. Each profession has a very strict Code of Ethics, many patterned after those for physicians. Also, private industry often has a very strict Code of Ethics. I believe that our lawmakers, those who they do business with, and all state employees for that matter, should be held to a very high standard of ethics. We are working for the people of the State of TN, and they deserve the opportunity to feel that their government is being overseen by trustworthy and competent employees, lawmakers, and associates at every level.
I believe the penalties should be in line with the act, that those who are accused should be recused until such time that the matter has been settled (often without compensation, depending on the situation), and that there should be an effective method of checks and balances in place to prevent this from happening, or at the very least, catch it and resolve it sooner than later.
I don't have the answers--but a "watchdog committee" wh
Ethics that apply to the lowest level of state workers should also apply at the highest levels with our politicians. We at the lower levels are not even allowed to drink a glass of tea while doing home visits in the summer, but it is acceptable for lobbyists to wine and dine politicians for favors. How is that?
Many professional groups offer ethics education seminars. I don't know if it would fit the circumstances, however, the advisory group may want to consider whether to impliment an annual ethics course requirement or pilot program. Thank you for your work and consideration. Best regards. - TW
IF A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF, RESIGNS OR IS TERMINATED FOR UNETHICALL OR SUSPECTED PRACTICES, PRESENT, & FUTURE THEY ARE ENTITLED TO NOTHING FROM STATE GOVERNMENT OR THE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM !!!!!
I also doubt any penalty of consequence comes from this Group because, the very people that this effects must vote on any changes to the laws!! By the time the final draft is approved the penalties will be so watered down that they will ammount to nothing.
I am one of those who has lost all confidence in Government.
First I would like to thank you for caring enough to make the effort. I am a DCS Team Leader. I beleive it is wrong to remove a person's child for environmental reason and then won't provide safe and affordable housing for families to live in. In TN a child can be removed from their home based on housing but there is little or no affordable/ adequate housing in the area. I also thank it is wrong for those very same people in government like, The Health, Educational & Housing Facility Board of Shelby County and DCS employees, who are responsible for housing and the safety of our children, to turn around and become DCS foster parents and receive large board payment from the State. I think it is wrong for there not to be a way a person can file a complaint because of inadquate housing and have it investiagated. Many times people are evicted from their homes for complaining and the apartment complex call CPS to have their children removed. I think it was wrong for the RA in Shelby county t
I think the first step has been put into place with the Citizen Advisory Group. When reports are submitted on campaign finance etc, the ethics board to review/investigate if the report is actually accurate. Maybe put into place stronger penalties if documents have been falsified. I think Governor Bredesen is doing a

great job!!
Due to the nature of their political appointments and procedures, these groups should be held accountable to the general public as to their involvement with financial activities received and for what purpose they were acquired. This should be public knowledge and monitored closely and the guilty of the abuse of Ethics should be held to the same punishment as any other public or private individual equally.
I think that if they do their job like we are expected to do ours everything should work out well. We have to give our best and they should do the same.
Legislators should have to be out of office for 1 year before being a lobbyist.
Full disclosure on a web site should be required of all legislators and lobbyist
Registry of Election Finance should have more authority
all campaign contributions should be by check and listed on a web site for every donor
We have been told that Tennessee's current ethics laws are one of the strongest in the country. If that is true then we are in real trouble. Below are several reasons that I and several other Tennesseans feel that we have a real problem here in Tennessee.
When lobbyists have more access to elected officials than the voting public.
When the public's business is conducted behind closed doors or at Morton's, or other watering holes in Nashville.
When legislators listen to lobbyists more than those who elected them.
When legislators pass laws that benefit the lobbyists more than Tennessee citizens. For instance, blasting laws need to be changed.
When you can have blasting damage to your home but yet the blasting company is under state guidelines.
When legislators stop acting in the best interest of the majority of citizens.
When legislators begin to believe they are more important than any average citizen.
When getting re-elected is more important than anything else.
When legislators "buy" votes
We need to strengthen the laws that govern treatment of state employees and keeping political appointees on the books simply because they are who they are despite the fact that they abuse their subordinates or fail to help those employees who are being abused and try to get people fired on trumped up charges because they have the power to do so.
ALL CITIZENS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS, WHETHER IT BE THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR ELECTED OFFICIALS. HERE IN TENNESSEE WE HAVE TOO MUCH OF THE GOOD-OLD-BOY SYNDROME, AND UNTIL THAT STOPS NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE. I AM A STATE EMPLOYEE AND I SEE ALL TOO OFTEN THE LACK OF ETHICS. I REALIZE YOU ARE ONLY ONE PERSON AND YOU CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH, BUT I HAVE SEEN THE GOOD THINGS YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE CITY OF NASHVILLE WHEN YOU WERE MAYOR AND I BELIEVE YOU ARE TRYING TO DO THE SAME FOR THE STATE AS GOVERNOR. WE DO NEED ETHICS REFORM BUT IT NEEDS TO BE FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST A SELECT FEW. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN TENNESSEE.
I support strong ethics legislation.
Our first priority should be not of how many Tennesseans we deal with but how many Tennesseans we satisfy. I currently work in a division that doesn't care no more about how many Tennesseans we satisfy but how many we deal with. It's all about the numbers on paper not how many we satisfy. It's a waste of

government time and money to just push paper vs. helping people. I use to love my job now hate it because I can't do what I use to in order to satisfy Tennessean's.

The opinions below are my personal opinions and do not represent any group or class of citizens:

I feel every official and/or employee representing the State of Tennessee, regardless if they are elected, hired, volunteer or appointed should be held to the highest level of standards.

First: Citizens already have such mistrust and low regard for the elected official because of the endless scandals exposed in the media and through personal experiences. The sad part is that probably less than 90% of the issues needing exposed are actually brought to light. It's pretty common knowledge hat "money talks" when seeking assistance from elected officials. Thus, the average citizen needing assistance usually (and most of the time) falls way down on the "to-do" list of those that can render assistance. While its true that an occasional favor is granted, the persons that get the most attention are the person(s) or group(s) destin to make the most money.

Second: I feel all persons should be held accountable

Obviously, legislators and members of their immediate families should be prohibited (with criminal sanctions applicable to any violations)from serving in lobbying capacities or as advisors in any capacity to anyone seeking to conduct business with the state or any of its agencies.

There should be low limits on amounts of money any person or entity is permitted to donate to a political candidate's election or re-election.

Even the Greeks, as early as 500 B.C. had term limits. Once elected to the Council of 50, they could serve only one year and then could not serve again for 10 years. WE DEFINITELY NEED TERM LIMITS at local, state and national congressional levels. We finally do have them for the president.

There are two things that concern me about the ethics forum as it now stands in this state. One: How much is the eothics panel you have convened costing tax payers...and how much will a special legislative session cost tax payers? Two: Why were you unwilling to support Rep. Frank Buck during the past legislative session when he introduced several ethics reform bills?

I think it's about time something was done regarding lobbying activities, campaign finance, disclosure requirements and current penalties. Our legislators are supposed to do everything above board and are responsible to the public, since we are the ones who put them there in the first place. The public should be able to trust them, but that is not the case at the present time. Laws should be much, much stricter and the penalites should be severe and carried out.

In prior positions as Controller of some or our local manufacturing firms, I was careful to be sure that not only my Accounting Department but also , Procurement and Marketing in no way put themselves in a position of giving the appearance of being compromised or of making decisons for the company because of pressure from outside, non-associated parties. This means not accepting gifts, trips, meals or other items of value from non-company sources. The State of Tennessee's employees are under polices that cover these same issures. Why not our elected officials? As Abraham Lincoln stated, we are the government of the people, by the people and for the people. The elected government officials are sent to office by the citizens of Tennessee. It is from the citizens that the officals receive their power. Can not the citizens expect the same integrity from our elected officials that the officals expect from the government employees? All people connected to the government, elected or regular paid employees, should

Ethics begins at the top. One rule for one group and another for another needs to stop. The governor and his staff are at the top so they are to show the rest right vs. wrong. Do not think this is happening. Look how harassment issue was handled with shredding while at the same time state employees are going to harassment classes. Disclosure is not the same for all parts of state govt. In some, its beyond being regulated while some, in my opinion, based on the news, it must not be regulated at all. Penalties need to be established and adhered to. Finally, who's running the state business, the state or lobbyists?

Don't only penalize the individual who accepts and supports such activities, but penalize the organization that offered the assistance.

Get politics out of hiring and promotions in state government. Lets get back to people are promoted or receive job assignments due to there past proven abilities and not based on what political person that makes the recommendation or phone call. This practice defeats the idea of capable staff taking initiative

of extra training or going above the job expectations because that's not what is always looked at. From my observation a lot of the people that have to use political influence is not the best person for the job. It's such a joke now that we don't look forward to who is promoted but to see what local politician has the most influence. This comment isn't coming from a grumbled employee that didn't get a promotion. It comes from a 25 year employee that isn't looking for advancement but is truly concerned about the future of those dedicated and hard working state employees as it relates to ethics of hiring/promotions.

The Governor is on the right track and measures are long overdue. Keep up the good work - Tennessee (and the rest of the country) need more legislators like Gov. Bredesen.

I believe it is unethical for an elected representative who is found guilty on charges of misusing the state's money to receive all of his or her retirement money. As a teacher, I believe in natural and logical consequences. An elected official who breaks the law has defrauded the taxpayers. Meanwhile, the individual has been collecting retirement fraudulently. His accrual should be returned to the state economy. This is a logical consequence to his or her actions.

I applaud your open-mindedness, Gov. Bredesen, during a difficult time in our state for those TennCare recipients. You have my support as a state employee and resident. Keep your chin up, and find some ways to reduce stress. Please know you have my support and the support of my family. We trust and believe you are and will continue to do what's right.

There should be zero tolerance. They should not be allowed to have the privilege to continue to represent the people nor should they be allowed to resign and continue to receive payment from the taxpayers. They should be booted out immediately and not allowed to continue to mock the system or the people who believe in the system. When you are an elected official nothing should be private. When elected you are set at a higher standard both morally and ethically. Lobbying should be outlawed. Disclosure requirements should be strict and anyone caught not disclosing should be immediately gone. Penalties should be severe as Senators and Congressmen hold all Tennesseans in their decisions and actions. Elected officials should always remember that they are not above the law and are no better than the people who elected them. Breaking the law should be immediate dismissal and loss of all privileges and all present/future benefits including salary, insurance, housing allowance, clothing expense, etc. Force them

Quite simply, thank you. There have been too many, feeding at the trough for too long. More specifically, lobbyists should be required to disclose fully what funds they have spent, and where and with whom. Failure to do so, or to do so falsely should be a felony.

To the Governor and members of the Citizens Advisory Group on Ethics:

I applaud your efforts and I pray that you will produce some true ethical reform within state government.

However, the underlying problem is not within government but within ourselves.

People are inherently selfish and weak. The political arena tends to corrupt good ethical conduct. To explain why this is would require a far longer comment than any of you would have the time to devote to reading.

Allow me to suggest two things which may be VERY tall orders:

1) TERM LIMITS on state representatives. Unfortunately not many individuals can long withstand the pressures and temptations of public service on the level of state representative. The best thing that such a person can do is limit his time to serve the public in this capacity. I would suggest that four years total service in a LIFETIME for any one individual would improve things vastly.

2) Raise the salary of a state representative to a livable wage. Currently the  
I don't know.

Since I am from a rural area and so many people still have a "good ol' boy" mindset when it comes to hiring or managing personnel, I think one thing that could be done is to try and provide more education to the HR or Purchasing Agents of the State and Federal laws regarding the consequences of staying in that "good ol' boy" mindset. It's a new day when multi-million dollar lawsuits are awarded because of

someone's ignorance of these laws and the fines associated with non-compliance.

ALL CITIZENS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS, WHETHER IT BE THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR ELECTED OFFICIALS. HERE IN TENNESSEE WE HAVE TOO MUCH OF THE GOOD-OLD-BOY SYNDROME, AND UNTIL THAT STOPS NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE. I AM A STATE EMPLOYEE AND I SEE ALL TOO OFTEN THE LACK OF ETHICS. I REALIZE YOU ARE ONLY ONE PERSON AND YOU CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH, BUT I HAVE SEEN THE GOOD THINGS YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE CITY OF NASHVILLE WHEN YOU WERE MAYOR AND I BELIEVE YOU ARE TRYING TO DO THE SAME FOR THE STATE AS GOVERNOR. WE DO NEED ETHICS REFORM BUT IT NEEDS TO BE FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST A SELECT FEW. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN TENNESSEE.

FULL disclosure of all monies received outside normal salaries. If elected officials are really in Nashville to represent us, then their priorities should be just that and not lining their pockets at the expense of the taxpayer. Another thing, if found guilty of breaking any of the ethical laws, the lawmaker should forfeit ALL benefits and pensions.

It is regrettable that we have to regulate people because of a few dishonest individuals.

Lobbyists should be regulated as to the amount of contact with the state workers and legislative members. No lunches and outside meetings with legislatures during the sessions. No and I mean No campaign donation from lobbyists, their families or the areas they represent

I think the ethics should be simple. no money (outside of working salary) from any area. All tax and campaign information should be made public.

The violators should be banned from government service and if lawyers disbarred.

All and I mean all campaign donations should be made public. Make to where only donations from individual TN citizens should be accepted.

You can't make a dishonest man honest, but you can make the penalty so strong it discourages such activities.

Ban all present or past lawmakers from being able to become lobbyists!

1. Members of the State Legislature should not be lobbyists. 2. Immediate Family Members of Legislators should not be lobbyists. 3. Former members of the legislature should not be allowed to be lobbyists for a minimum of three years after they leave the legislature. 4. Lobbyists should be required to disclose their annual income from lobbying and detailed information about who they receive the income from.

Devise a code of ethics that must be followed by lobbyist and government. make the penalties for breaking the code of ethics stronger.

In 1995, the British Parliament carried out a similar study because of ethical concerns that had arisen. Their report concluded in seven principles of conduct, independent internal investigative improvements, education and support, and a review of current practices. I believe that you must lead change in the legislature and your cabinet. Your oversight of your cabinet must improve if former Commissioners White and Child serve as an example. We may have to accept that some elected officials have moral weaknesses and develop inflated egos as they either expect or become influenced by privileges and temptations of their positions that lead them to unethical and self-serving acts. We must review the root causes and opportunities that exist and develop codes, expectations, and consequences. Education and support must be offered, actions monitored, and judgements carried out in full public disclosure. Any gifts or hospitality must be available for disclosure. There should be discussion of imposed waiting period

Pass an ethics law requiring those seeking to hold positions in TN Government such as: Members of House/Senate and anyone on these type of committees, lobbyists etc. to undergo random drug testing. But this bill would really shake things up. Don't you??? After all Why would anyone object to unless they were guilty of these type of illegal activities? Right? I think this sort of policy would knock out a lot of other illegal activity if you know what I mean. Like real quick!

On a much different note in talking with many different types of taxpayers and businessmen, they tell me they feel like the world we live in is getting closer and closer to the place you're either in a rich or poor

category and there'll be no such thing as a middle man one day, just like when we came over on the boats from England to get away from this type of oppression!!! I wonder if what I hear will happen. You're average upright middle men say everyday they're being forced out of business by crooked corporations that know how to hide

Ethics is a internal character trait that can not be legislated but can be mandated. I would suggest ethics laws that are clear and well understood by those who call themselves servants of the people. When ethics laws are violated prosecute to the full extent of the law.\

To avoid misunderstandings for government related travel. Have an oversight committee that reviews travel plans based on accepted criteria by the State of Tennessee. This committee would determine the need and the benifit to the state or local community. This would make it more difficult for lobbyist to entice legislators.

There needs to be some type of limitation on family members of elected officials working as lobbyists.

There also should be a "cooling off" period that an elected official cannot take a job with a lobbyist or serve as a "consultant" after completing his/her term. I think a minimum of five years would be sufficient.

I have worked with a nonprofit for several years doing volunteer lobby work. I am convinced that there are many problems with the current system. Here are a few:

1) State and local agencies, using employees compensated with tax dollars, have a disproportionate ability to "lobby" legislators compared with the private citizens and organizations. One example might be the disaster with TWRA pressing for the power to set license fees without legislative oversight and, when that power was finally given, raising rates approximately 35% in the first year.

Another problem I see is the use of tax dollars to fund allegedly private non-profits (e.g., Tennessee Municipal league) which then turns around and lobbies state government on behalf of local governments and employees.

Why is it appropriate to allow the use of tax dollars to pay for government employed lobbyists?

I think that these governmental agencies should be involved at the request of the legislature but that it is unfair for them to have so

Your efforts in this area are like a breath of fresh air. Some of our politicians are too liberated from any sense of shame and less liberated from any sense of duty.

I think people who represent us should be of utmost ethics....I think they are wasting money..they should be held accountable for all the money they spend (especially for themselves)....we are overtaxed...Tn Care is wasting money....the clients should be charged a co-payment....people who really need it are being cut, while the "wasters" are still getting it....they are getting

OTC medications on Tn Care....so they come in for a Rx so Tn care will pay for it...and then Tn care pays for an office visit...it is misuse of money....charge them a co pay and take away all OTC meds...

We the public should have the right to review our legislator's files. Voters need to know and understand they are sending to Nashville to represent them and, mostly, if elected officials are behaving themselves in a proper manner. In the current system, a legislator can commit heinous acts on a daily basis and never once have it opened up to their constituents. This is unexceptable! Gov. Bredesen, as someone who cares about the state of Tennessee and the well- being of all Tennesseans please see that changes are made and that the truth comes out!

Put restrictions on lobby activities.Stricter campaign disclosure requirements and make penalties for violations more profound.

My biggest concerns are lobbyist. I don't think they are for the benifit of most Tennesseans and/or the general public. I don't think most people trust lobbyist. They have too much influence on our government officials. Disclosure requirements should much more stringent than they are now. Too many loopholes.

You're right, public officials have to regain they public trust. They've got a long way to go.

I believe the penalties for violaters should be imposed on the person or persons committing the violations

and the lobbyist that encourage these actions not be allowed to continue to lobby at the state level. The branch that allows the conduct such as Senator Cooper to chair and approve the funds from which he benefits should be punished as well. They voted for the Grant!! Its a little like prostitution, you must punish the John and the Prostitute if you are going to be effective...

Standard state contract language should stipulate that any contractor or sub-contractor found to have given payments or gifts to Tennessee officeholders or their immediate families, directly or via an intermediary, shall forfeit an amount no greater than 5 x the amount of the kickback. This language will protect contractors from being shaken down.

Secondly, the Registry of Election Finance needs the authority to question and investigate, with subpoena power, campaign fund expenditures. If improper use is found, fines of 5 x the improper use amount should be assessed.

Third, conflict-of-interest disclosures for the Legislative Branch should be required to have a level of specificity regarding all sources of income for the legislator and every member of his/her immediate family. The source/client must be named (a lawyer's firm in the case of attorneys), and the amount of the income estimated to within \$1,000. Of course, that change would require the legislators to require such disclosure of themselves, which

Everyone should not have to answer for other peoples actions. We have a need for better pay and benefits and no one is listening to us as state/correctional employees. There are a lot of single parents male and female that work in these areas and it is very hard to make ends meet. Not all of us have fallen into the cracks of doing bad things or making bad decisions. Those that do need to be penalized, but not all of us. Ethics are very important, therefore when there is a problem, it should be dealt with then and not swept under the rug so to speak. As a state employee, I don't feel that we are appreciated.

Reputations have been soiled so bad we need strong ethics legislation to ever gain the trust again. I have no specific ideas however.

This is off the subject however I have to take the opportunity to speak. I have been a long time supporter of Phil Bredesen. I was speaking to a republican legislator last week about tncare and he said, "we are just letting tncare flounder Bredesen will get the blame for it". I am afraid that tactic is working in our area. You need to put the blame where it belongs on the legislature that refuses to fund an adequate program. My own mother of 75 is off tncare as of today and will suffer untold hardships in spite of all you are doing as for as a safety net.

I think it is unethical, immoral and certainly unchristian to abuse our older tennesseans in this manner. I think a lot of our citizens are going to feel that way in a couple of months when the realization sets in that these older citizens have no tncare. They are going to be looking for someone to hold accountable.

I have long felt integrity is a thing of the past when it comes to most public servants and state employees. No-bid contracts or contracts awarded to friends are a common occurrence. Nepotism is a huge problem within state government. I have worked at Fall Creek Falls State Park for 26 years and am in management. When contracts are being awarded, no advice or input is ever requested from the people that work at our facility. We are the ones that have the knowledge of what is needed and what are budgets can handle. We also have employees in this park that are on county commissions that, at times, make decisions directly affecting the park.

I have often been called a "company" employee, because I abide by State policies and procedures. My goal is to improve working conditions for all of my employees and safety for all of our guests. This often falls on deaf ears. We work hard to be self sufficient, but when our budget is controlled by central office; raises and positions created for them, all the while taking p

I am a state employee and my supervisor allows employees to bring their children to work when they don't have childcare available (she also does it). I have spoken to her about it because I think it is not right for children to be in the office all day. She doesn't understand why I have a problem with this. The parents end up taking care of their children on state time. To me, that is just wrong. I work at the TN Foreign Language Institute.

You will never secure any kind of ethics reform until you allow the source of all ethics to be displayed in public and government locations. They are called "The Ten Commandments" if our publicly elected

officials cannot abide by these 10 simple principles then your efforts are for naught. We certainly do need honesty in our elected officials City, State and Federal. Sorry to say at this point in time with allegations against so many public officials we need to get back to basics. It's very simple thou shalt not steal, make false witness, covet other's success or wealth, etc, etc.

We will be watching closely during your deliberations and hope you will have the courage to uphold these God given principles that should apply to all our lives.

Even those who do not profess belief in a higher being will gain by having their representatives abiding by rules that promote honesty and integrity.

Since I came from Florida, I am accustomed to the Sunshine Law where there are no "Closed Sessions or Meetings". All Official conduct for any level of State/City government is subject to public representation. Any deviation of this policy can result in removal from office, with the ability of felony charges being filed and executed against the elected official. It has been an adjustment for the buddy network that appears to exist in Tennessee. My suggestion would be to review other state's policy on the ethics standards and place it to the public for voting on which path they want to hold their elected officials accountable. This elements the appearance of placing a band-aid on a festering spot of the government.

As a Marine Officer for 26 years before becoming a Tennessee State Employee, I was required to avoid any activity that could hint at, be misinterpreted as, or imply a conflict of interest -- even if it wasn't. I expect nothing less from State Employees and especially our leaders and lawmakers in the State Legislature. The penalty for those who violate this "special trust" should be quick and sure but also consider the action, grade, experience, and intent of the violator. Those in higher, more responsible positions, with more experience, should expect to be held to the highest standards and be dealt with in a harsher manner if they fail to uphold these standards. One who knowingly violates the standard and has done so for a lengthy period should not expect to receive retirement compensation for any period that is shown to be in violation of the standard. And further, one who is discovered to have been a violator after retirement should forfeit their retirement for periods when the violation took place and

As with any crime, strong penalties and consequences are the best deterrent to violations. An Ethics review board with limited terms and personnel appointed by appropriate TN government offices is an idea.

make all officials understand that there is a REASON why we have these policies in place. that they are required to go by these guidelines and are held responsible if they do not. it has seemed for years some, but not all persons feel they can get by with what ever they choose to do.

I am most concerned about the shredding of the personal records. You must realize what a reflection of your character that is? This is the most serious ethics we have.

It is obvious that we need some sort of ethics rules and regulations that would prevent us from electing officials who would have a tendency to act in the ways that some of our elected officials have acted. I honestly believe that the types of situation which were brought to light regarding some of our legislators have been occurring for years, and it just so happened that someone slipped up and got caught. The people of this state need to be assured that the officials that are put in place will act in their best interest and not just acquire a position in government to help them become wealthy individuals.

Itemized disclosures of campaign spending and details on income for "consulting" jobs for all state govt. officials (in legislature, executive offices, and judiciary)

No campaign contributor should be allowed to be on state boards that affect his or her business directly.

First, all laws are meaningless unless they can be enforced. Therefore, let us first decide how we are going to enforce these ethics laws before we go to the trouble of creating them. I suggest that you create a committee with members appointed by the Governor to actively pursue the oversight of new ethics laws in conjunction with the ethics committee that is already in existence in the legislature. These two bodies should review all complaints, identify questionable legislation, etc. as well as perform oversight duties. Members should serve one term the length of which could be decided later. Second, in these ethics laws I believe that there should also be restrictions placed on the power and influence of the lobbyists in some way. I voted for the members of the legislature, not for the lobbyists. When they have more influence than elected officials I believe we have a very serious problem.

This Advisory Group is charged with activities that are long overdue. I look forward to reading about the changes that will be made.



These laws must be made and applied to all forms of govt,stateand local;

Thank you for this oppertunity

These laws must be made and applied to all forms of govt,stateand local;

Thank you for this oppertunity

I, as a citizen of Tennessee, and a registered voter, expect those that we elect to public office to make decisions based on what is best for the people of Tennessee, not what will put additional financial strain on the citizens of Tennessee or fill an elected officials' pocket with money. It is difficult to trust our leaders when they accept money to vote for laws and changes that do not benefit our state as a whole. I think that there should be policies that do not allow an elected officials'immediate family member to be a lobbyist. As a state employee, we sign a conflict of interest form each year. There should be limits on campaign finance, including limits on what campaign finance can be used for.

Disclosure requirements as to the amount of money and the person or business giving the money should be disclosed. If a person is charged with a violation of the policies, there should be stricter penalties. I know that our laws say that a person is innocent until proven guilty, however, to allow a pe

Governor, thank you for this opportunity to respond to ethics in government. There are many issues that should be dealt with, of which sexual harassment is only one. In my 25+ years of government at the city, state and federal level I have learned that ethical pratices become blended with political considerations, just by the very nature of the beast. There are some ethical issues that I believe must be dealt with to make this a better state government: (1) lack of enforcement of contractual terms (my perception), and (2) use of inappropriate job classifications for the job being done. These are just two that are on my mind at the current time.

An Ethics Advisory Group would not be necessary if all employees, from the Governor to the clerk I, would ask themselves at the end of the day "would the citizens of this state feel comfortable with what I did for them today".

I know that these concerns do not fall within the parameters given the Advisory Group, but they are none the less valid concerns.

Public officials should not be allowed to stay in office while

under ethic's investigations--they should be on administrative leave

without pay until their case is settled.

Campaign finacial contributions should be a limited amount and actually spent on elction materials then reported with receipts attached. That's what people are lead to believe when they give their money. It is unethical to use it for any other reason. Lobbyists should be paid by their own interest group to present their needs or wants without the use of any other coercion. If they've done their homework and presented a strong case, they shouldn't feel the need to have to wine and dine anyone. Any perks from any lobbyist should be prohibited.

In both cases, penalty should be to repay the exact amount ill used or taken, whether it was money or ill gained perks, back into the general fund and to lose their seat in the legislature. When trust is broken, it is never repaired. People feel powerless and seem to have become resigned that politicians are no more than thugs in suits.

I feel it should be included in a Department of State Government and be in service as all other department services.

Lobbying activities should be limited by not allowing political contribution in any fashion.That way every Tennessean can be represented equally.No disclosure would be needed anyone found in violation would be prosecuted to the fullest.

I think an audit trail would be good. As state employees we are accountable for how we spend tax payers' dollars. Earnings information can be obtained from screens and IRS quarterly returns. Reports should be submitted on a monthly or quarterly basis.

I believe a "no tolerance" policy would effectively get people's attention. If you are peddling influence,

then you should not represent the citizens of Tennessee. We are allowing our government to essentially become responsive to the highest bidder instead of to the voters. Are we to believe that when a lobbyist "donates" money to a candidate or an elected official that they do not expect some consideration in return? We need to lead the way in ethical reform rather than being the subject of nightly monologs.
State government needs to ensure that it communicates all advances and successes on ethics to the masses. The erosion of trust in politics in general is an obstacle in delivering positive news. Find good people to replace others in government and you wouldn't need ethics reform!
Look at projects with large sums of money being spent. Rank these and statistically select projects to investigate.
Advisory Group should not be from State or County government.
Simple: If you or your family profit in anyway other than salary and perks from your trusted elective office you will spend the rest of your life in jail.
Establish a waiting period before an ex senator/rep can be a lobbyist - not a stepping stone from "the hill". Full disclosure on ALL income for elected state officials. Enforce the sunshine laws - especially in the legislature. There are way too many back room meetings where major decisions are made.
Quit bending the rules and turning a blind eye to elected officials. For example, a man who openly admits to living with two different women at the same time has no business in any government. At some point, we have to say "No More!" and demand higher moral values from these people. For, when you become tolerant of anything, you stand for nothing.
Secondly, there seems to be something wrong with a system that allows elected officials to give themselves a raise. Such a decision should placed with the voters for we are responsible for having to pay that salary. Just because the cost of living is going up doesn't mean that those who pay your salary are also enjoying wage increases. The majority are often living from pay day to pay day and, unfortunately, cannot afford to give a pay for your self-appointed raise.
Lastly, these elected officials need to be need to remember that they were elected by simpe folk who, at the time, had faith in their dedication to the responsibilities of the position
I yall would get some sort of prequalification to be a politician maybe you wouldn't have the FBI hauling them off the Senate floor. Also I believe that ethics should start at the top (your position) and work down. I have no complaints on your position with ethics.
These recent challenges on TN ethics are not new. This hs been going on for years, but has just snowballed into this big mess. I think you should PAY the stateworkers enough in the beginning and you will not have as much worries about the ethics. Also, the state DOES NOT support higher education enough. ONLY ! CLASS A TERM!!!! There are hotels, and cell phone companies that support education more than that. You have to project better ethics in order to attract better ethics. Thank you
First, I am struck by the selective process used to target strong liberal democrats who had the backbone to challenge the gov. on his hideous workers' comp. initiative, tax reform, dismanteling of TennCare & other core Democratic principles. I think it highly unlikely that no long-term republicans engage in the kinds of activities about which our strong democrats have been accused. Secondly, I'm amused by the gov.'s preoccupation with his "ethics" rhetoric, given that he ran as a Democrat and has done nothing but destroy the few remaining democratic policies left while promoting the pro-plutocracy platform of big corporations. The gov. would do well to study what Jesus taught about our obligation to care for the "least of these", to share, and not exploit for profit (monetary, power, or otherwise).The ethics reform needed in Tennessee is the dismantling of hypocrisy in gov.& politics.
I believe any employee or elected civil servant of the State of Tenn., if convicted by law of ethics violations, should not only be summarily dismissed from his/her position but should forfeit any and all retirement benefits or other monetary benefits they might otherwise be receiving. I have seen other State employees lose their benefits for less serious behavior and to continue to pay out benefits is not only "rewarding" misconduct but is a financial drain on an already strained budget.
Ethics reform & updating of current rules (if we have any); establishment of independent private citizen review board which would represent all segments of our state citizens. Some could be elected by the citizenry, but also

appointed by the sitting governor for a period of no more than 8 years. Electing these people may take some time and the state laws may have to be amended to provide for this. If this is the case then the governor and speaker of house should appoint these people with the majority of these people being appointed by the governor.

Something has to be done. Politicians must be held accountable and remember their positions have been given to them as a job with a privilege of serving those who sent him/her to represent their needs as citizens. In fact they must always

remember that they are employees of the citizenry of TN who in turn are their employer. When one is hired to do a job the expectation from the employer is that they do their very best and not a license to abuse. If we do

Have a different group of people set into law, laws on lobbying, etc. There are too many loopholes.

Well, ethics reform is certainly a great start, but the Legislators surely ought to know better. They are supposed to be doing what is best for Tennessee and not themselves. I, being a state employee and a proud Tennessean, am embarrassed by the actions of some of the politicians i.e. Tennessee Waltz arrests....I'm sure you will fix this problem if anyone can....I would say making people accountable for the money that is spent is a great start. I'm not trying to be self-righteous, but again I say, these politicians surely ought to know better. I am very glad that some of the crooked ones were caught and sorrowfully I say expect some more to be "busted". God bless our great state of Tennessee and Bredeesen for Prez! :aj

The problem is not with lobbyists or campaign money. The problem is with corrupt government officials who abuse their positions. More laws will not make bad people good.

Instead, we need to remove obstacles such as campaign contribution and spending limits that can make it more difficult for challengers to defeat incumbents.

Individuals and businesses should be able to lobby their representatives, alone or through organized groups, but those representatives should only pass laws that promote the general welfare of the state rather than the specific welfare of those individuals and businesses.

An independent permanent ethics commission, free from political influence, is the only way to regain any confidence in government. This commission must be made up of individuals who do not have any political or financial ties to anyone involved with the state in any way. The activities of the commission must not be designed by elected officials, business associated with state, or by the lobbyists themselves.

Any elected official that takes lobbyists' money should show his/her integrity by disclosing all activities and money related to that lobbyist.

As long as elected officials and lobbyists hide behind disclosure laws, campaign laws, etc (designed to protect them), the public will not completely trust their officials. Activities done in secret always leave doubt in everyone's mind whether true or not. Appearance is important.

no retirement benefits for anyone convicted of violating the law -we must be certain that our public officials are voting for what is best for us and not for their pocketbooks and bank accounts.

I believe lobbying activities must be dealt with in returning to a more representative form of government that people can trust. The sooner this issue is realistically addressed the better for our state. I also believe term limits would have a positive impact on the political landscape. This would allow other well qualified individuals to be elected as representatives with a fresh approach not clouded by years of lobbying activities.

Working for the State of TN in the procurement/receiving/shipping side of state business we are instructed that it is against state policy to receive gifts from vendors. This is the code of ethics and should apply to ALL state employees right up to the Governor. No one should be exempt.

Campaign finances that are gifts should have a cap limit and be fully disclosed for public access. Not being sure of current penalties I think that in situations such as Mr. Ford should pay the money or gift value to a fund for education. Mr. Ford needs to know he is not God and needs to pay for his actions. If he were a regular citizen of the state of TN he would be expected to be responsible for his actions.

It isn't enough to "firm up the language" of laws and rules. "Personal ethics" seems a concept that varies from person to person and from time to time. It must be made clear that profiting from public service is not what the legislature is about. But if we must "define" ethics, put a seriously low number on the value of favors, reimbursement, or gifts that can be exchanged for access to lawmakers. Anything over that amount should, or MUST, risk criminal penalties. If the number is low enough, no one will bother trying to meet it. Another idea is that in order to have lunch or dinner with a lawmaker, the lobbyist must also invite a citizen to that meeting. The citizen can be chosen (ala jury pools) by someone else. the citizen may be then polled to find out what was discussed. I know that is a weird one, but we have to think outside the box on this. It will be easier to find methods that make "business as usual" corrupt practices unfeasable than it will be to find people willing to serve who have unimpeachabl

The Sun Shine law should apply to the legislature. There should be more disclosure re perks and contributions from lobbyists.

Dear Governor Bredesen,

Will the Ethics Task Force hold open meetings?

Will the public be allowed to comment and have our voices heard?

Strict registration & reporting requirements. Limit funds from any sources in regards to campaign or legislative actions. Limitation of access for lobby efforts and/or companies seeking business from the state. No legislative official should be allowed to work on behalf of a company that is an established supplier or interested in becoming a supplier to the state of Tennessee. This would eliminate consulting in regards to business with other states.

All individuals entrusted with the responsibility of providing to the public services rendered by the State of Tennessee as well as those public officials entrusted with law making and decisions that help govern the business of the state must be held accountable. There are numerous codes of ethics already in place and I am sure those could be improved upon. However I feel that most ethical codes in place today provide guidance and set forth expectations as to the conducting of the states business personally and profesionally. The review of all laws and policies related to lobbyinjg activities, campaign finance, disclosure requirements, and current penalties for ethics violations is certainly needed. What is needed more is for everyone to follow these laws and guidelines and for swift and appropriate action be taken when violations occur.

I do not honestly how to make things better, I just know a bad thing when I see it. It has been a sorry time for this state, with the current events...I do believe that when an official of the government is "caught" he/she should not receive their pension, retirement, etc...if convicted.

Dear Sir:

You asked for my opinion, I hope you will like it! There has been a downhill slide in ethical manners for a long time. Nothing is new with your administration.

We, the People have become so busy with making a living, or, going after every available \$\$, that we just ignore the happenings around us.

Don Sundquist took this state for a ride and what happened to him? The punishment never fits the crime, anymore.

The TennCare program has been mismanaged from day one. The problem is still there. Go after every person, or, organization who has taken an illegal \$\$ from the program and the funds would be there to support it.

We, the People, get just exactly what we will take. We have become sooo lazy that we do not care, until, the \$\$ comes from our pockets.

Hey,enough said! I am thoroughly disgusted with politics and those who "serve" the public.

Still praying for you and our state from Blaine.

Essentially this: DO NOT LIE, CHEAT, or STEAL. Further, do not assist anyone else in this endeavor.

This mantra should apply to taxpayers, recipients of Tenn Care and other public benefits, elected officials, and lobbyists.

For those of us running small businesses and paying our own way, it is very disheartening to see the chicanery of a few people in government, overshadow the overwhelming good done by officials and state workers.

At a civic club breakfast meeting the other morning, a young lady (whom I did not know) was quick to tell me that for at least the next eight years she doesn't believe she could possibly vote for an incumbent. Someone else heard this and said they too agree. This sentiment should speak volumes to the "good lawmakers" to clean up the mess in and around their elected offices and committees and quickly remove and distance themselves from those who only seem to be personally profiting from an elected position at the taxpayer's expense.

I am currently enrolled at Tusculum College working toward my Masters of Art in Organizational Management. All of my classes have a strong ethical emphasis. I really believe that if we started teaching ethics in grade school, middle school, and high school we would see a difference in the ethical behavior of our children and grandchildren. We can not rely on families to teach ethics and morality as our family values have plummeted to an all-time dismal low. Divorce rates continue to escalate and in many instances grandparents who barely make ends meet are raising children. The ailing educational system may be to only hope for an ethical future.

Thank you for allowing us citizens to voice our comments about the upcoming ethics reform.

It is inconceivable for any legislator to be a consultant for any company, especially companies doing business with State Government. What happened to conflict of interest?

I also learned recently that the legislators, involved in the Tn Waltz Operation, if convicted are entitled to a state pension. This law needs to be changed! I feel that none of our ELECTED officials should receive any retirement, they are not state employees, however, they have become career politicians.

Recently one of the local news media revealed the enormous overtime payment to speaker Naifeh's driver/security guard - this is absolutely mind-boggling. If these officials cannot commute to Nashville, then they should rent an apartment in Nashville to enable them to fulfill their duties as elected officials. It would be interesting to see how much each assembly member costs us taxpayers.

The ethics session should be held at least by

All people, including elected servants, who commit crimes should be subject to the same laws and punishment.

i think it should be no matter when you were voted in to office and you commit a crime , you should lose your pension , we the people would lose our social security or any other pension if we were convicted of a crime.

Require all Officials to give a account of all incomes by submitting a copy of their IRS returns ,If they are honest it wont matter to them those that object may be hiding something!!

nothing is more important to the success of good government as openness and fairness and nothing is more critical to the trust that follows as accountability...without accountability there is no responsibility to deter poor judgement...lobbying activites have a place in helping to inform out elected officials but that information should not come at a price...lobbyist should of course be registered and to obtain that registration privilege they shold have to hav econtinuing education and licensure as any other professional...campaign finance has too many loopholes to allow getting around the reporting of 3rd party hard and soft contribution...current penalties for violations of ethics is absurd

Accountability must be part of our expectations for everyone in government, including legislators and administrators. In my experience with state government, there is a concerted effort to cover up specific information that would be damaging to politicians and workers (I have worked with TennCare), and rarely is anyone held accountable. Honesty and integrity are sometimes lacking, but not typically managed appropriately due to the labyrinth of state government in which transgressions can be obfuscated. An

ethics oversight body that is appointed by the court system may be of benefit in providing credibility in the conduct of state government business.

Thank you Gov. Bredesen for acknowledging a contentious situation and trying to be proactive. There must be campaign finance reform @ the state level. Keep up the good work.

If you want to improve anything, I found, that it starts with yourself. We, as employees of the state, need to give the state an honest days work for a honest days pay. That sounds simple and it is, but our staff needs to realize that we need to step up to the plate and work a little harder to show the public that we want our state to be the best. I found that people who move here do so because they like hard working people who will be honest and really care about them and their needs. We, also, need to work on TennCare, Mr. Bredesen. In my community, there is a down syndrome lady who has been taken off TennCare. She is nearly 50 years old and has never been in a facility, because her mother has taken care of her. Her mother is up in her 70's, sick and really not able to worry about insurance, medicine, food, gas and etc. but she is. She worries about what will happen to her when she dies and no one will take care of her. She doesn't want to ever put her in a facility like GVDC, but I'm afraid that w

In my area of state mental health, we have an on-site employee appointed by the state as an investigator--There has to be some kind of person acting as "policeman" within an organization to keep things running on an "even ethical keel."

That's why policemen are also stationed in the public school system. Consider this for the political realm.

It seems that some state employees treat Ethics laws somewhat like they do the speed limit, they only follow them when an authority(police)is watching. So I think you need to increase the penalty for breaking these ethic laws and provide some protection for those that step forward and report violations. I know from personal experience that an employee will pay the penalty for pointing out a violation, but that is water over the dam and we should look to the future in strengthening these laws.

Lobbying activities should be done in writing. No more cocktail lunches or behind closed door activities. Lobbying could take the form of "advertisements" from lobbyists. The politician being solicited would have to disclose these "advertisements" on their websites.

Lawmakers who make decisions about high dollar issues should be held to the same high standards that low level state employments who make decisions about relatively small amounts of money. A procurement officer can't even take a free tin of cookies at Christmas time without breaking our conflict of interest rules!!!!

Each representative of state government should be accountable for all income whether it be from government salaries or from private sector funds. There is too much money exchanging hands under the table.

**BAN LOBBYISTS! PERIOD !**

**ENSURE THAT THE LAWMAKERS SIGN AN ETHICS COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT ANNUALLY UNLESS THIS IS ALREADY BEING DONE. IF SO, IT HASN'T BEEN EFFECTIVE FOR EVERYONE.**

Why are elected officials NOT held to the same code of ethics, code of conduct that is outlined in the STATE OF TENNESSEE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK... including accepting gifts and gratuities???

Dear Governor Bredesen:

Accountability should be at the top of any factors that guide Tennessee's government. As a citizen, as a parent, as a wife, as a daughter, and as a member of my community I am held accountable to my conduct. And, as an employee, I am accountability for my conduct. If I take or use funds from my company, then I have committed a crime, and should be accountability for that crime. If commit a conflict of interest by using my position with a company and another company wishes me to give them advantages, then I should be held accountable for those actions.

Ethics in Tennessee's government is essential to the stability of how the people of Tennessee conduct themselves on a daily basis. If our leaders can bend and twist the law then the average citizen may feel they are entitle to do so, as well.

The laws should be voted in because of their benefit to the citizens of Tennessee NOT special interest groups. Money and special interests should not rule over the common Tennessean who pu

I cannot intelligently answer this question, I just know that something needs to be done.
As a state employee, my biggest issue is that the legislature is held to such different standards from the rest of us. Within the Department of Transportation we are not allowed to accept anything larger than \$50. And we're told that this is at the order of the Governor's office. My understanding is that the legislature is allowed to accept gifts of a much larger amount.
I have no issue with the ethics rules for state employees. But I feel they should be consistent and applied to elected officials in the same manner.
I consider it a privilege to have been a state employee for 28 years and am appalled that elected officials seem to think they are above the law and that being elected gives them the right to further their own interests and pocketbooks (as seen in Ford scandal). I applaud your efforts and believe Senators/Congressmen should be held to high ethical standards - past and present.
A representative or Senator and their staff should derive their sole income from the salary the state pays them. If they come to public service with a functioning business or other financial instruments that produced income to them as private citizens, these interests should be placed into a blind trust which would be outside of their control until they return to private life.
I think there should be a periodic review of the items of ethical concern, like campaign finance and lobbying, by a citizens group to make sure that the ethics laws are being followed. Until some measure is put into place to ensure compliance with the law, corrupt politicians will continue to get away with breaking the law. And, I don't think a politician that is found guilty of ethics violations should be allowed to keep any benefits that cost the tax payers.
1. Make it mandatory that no state positions are appointed. This is a huge barrier to getting goals and objectives accomplished, at least in Public Health. With all the competent qualified applicants, why do we allow people that are not qualified to hold important positions.
2. Eliminate the current system of hiring. It is too antiquated and qualified applicants do not get on the register or it takes months.
3. Hold state employees accountable. This is the single most unethical behavior other than the hiring process that I have witnessed in my 3 and 1/2 years with the state. Why do we promote people that are above their level of competence? Why do we not have standards on hiring and promoting individuals?
4. Hire and train competent managers/supervisors.
I don't have any specific examples or details, but I will make one comment. I believe the laws and policies should not be written so tightly as to force violation or significantly hinder job performance. But, I do believe the consequences of serious violation should be automatic and severe.
Thank You.
The current news events are the tip of the iceberg. When you have government appointees picking supervisors who haven't any management experience then the workplace is wide open for harassment cases. All employees should be referred to EAP or for some counseling or assistance first, not just lobbyists. We had an employee fired here and he was not ever told why, he just got a letter that he was fired, what happened to due process? I think the Governor needs to get more feedback from people other than his appointees.
Research families, boyfriends/girlfriends, etc. who work together in supervisory positions over each other and see what conflicts are resulting/might result due to that relationship (better promotions, merit raises, easier job duties, hiring their friends/kids, voting to enhance their industry/company, etc.). Have the TBI investigate into assets of those who seem to be living at a level above their income bracket. (The way the Quinton White situation was handled was well taken by state employees. I have heard no negative comments, only positive for the way you handled that situation. Keep up the good work. This administration is so much better than it was.)
LOBBYING - ELIMINATE ALL TYPES OF LOBBYING NOW. TERM LIMITS - IF YOU CAN'T SERVE A THIRD TERM NO ONE SHOULD INCLUDING NAIFEH AND WILDER. MAKE THE PROVISIONS EFFECTIVE AT ONCE (NO GRANDFATHERING) TO START THE LONG-NEEDED OVERHAUL. CAMPAIGN FINANCING - EXTREME RESTRICTIONS TO GIVE THE MIDDLE CLASS A MEANS OF HAVING A CHANCE TO SERVE. PENALTIES - SEND FRANK BUCK'S BILL THROUGH AT ONCE

AND TACK ON ANYTHING ELSE TO MAKE IT EVEN TIGHTER. OUR STATE IS A NATIONAL LAUGHINGSTOCK UNTIL WE GET THIS FIXED!
I really wonder how ethical it is to have lobbyist in the first place. Is there a way to ban this or to limit contact with elected officials? Should the people of Tennessee have to band together to hire their own lobbyist to be heard over the lobbyist?
Perhaps we should build one large room for all the lobbyists and the elected folks could log-into the room and seek information as they see fit.
I just think that since former Sen. John Ford has been place in the hot seat for his miss use of power, that most of the House Reps and Sentors should all be replaced. Due to the time frame that they have served this state. So, how can any of the reps in any government be ethical all the time if you have serve for so many years? Last but not least Ford was not totally by himself, therefore, what does that say about the reps that were there before him? So, I simply would like to recommend that everyone be held to the same level of accountability in order to get this corruption cleaned up.
I was disappointed in your choice of members of the advisory group. The group is made up of only state employees, when I say "state employees" I mean anyone whose income comes from the tax payers, that would be everyone on the panel in one form or another. Do you really think any of these individuals is going to take a stance against the group who gets to make the rules. Where is the citizen in this panel?
What has this world come to when you have to pass a law that people have ethics?? People should have them to begin with...and when some don't those persons somehow find their way to the top of companies or in politics! When you have definative PROOPF, as the FBI does on the 6 lawmakers, don't give them the 'opprotunity' to resign...kick their sorry butts out of office!! I don't want them to represent me...what would that say about me??? About the person I am?? I am law abiding and live by my ethics, yet I dont' want some sleazy jerk taking bribes, not paying child support, shooting truck drivers, and a just plain evil person all around respresenting me and my state!
Lobbyist are only doing their job. If the politicians can be bought off that easy, they belong in ORGANIZED crime NOT in the legislature!
In the 37 years that I have been in Public Service I have firmly believed that anyone in public service positions should be held to the highest standards. We set the standards for conduct and our ethics should be above reproach- no exceptions. By conducting ourselves as such, the public's opinion of all government workers is enhanced, trust is restored or maintained, as the case may be, and all of society benefits from it. I urge the Group to take the "high ground" so that the citizens of this great state can once again have confidence that all of our elected, appointed and career employees perform their jobs with dignity, honesty and professionalism.
There should not be paid lobbyist..bottom line...not fair...individuals contacting should be the way...so all are represented equally.
I think that the Governor's priorities are all valid and needed. I am amazed that the Legislative Branch decides their own regulations, compensations, etc. There is something fundamentally wrong with this procedure and would like that also reviewed and revised.
This may not fall under the ethics reform however I do have a suggestion. I am a 30 year state employee who was called by our dept.of personnel to come pick up my 30 year service plaque and the item I had chosen as a gift. There was always a presentation of service awards to employees who have given there years serving the public. What has happened to the appreciation of service? I know people who have 40 and 45 years of service and are never recognized.
The new ethics laws should include: A four-hour ethics course for all legislators at the beginning of each General Assembly; Transparency in Government including: no secret meetings by legislators, record all legislative votes, full financial disclosure by legislators and lobbyists; An Independent Ethics Commission with the authority to investigate complaints against any elected state officials.
I'd like the goverment to at least bankrupt the crooks. Sell everything they own so the goverment can be reimbursed for their expenses.
I believe that the most severe ethics violations occur in the legislative branch of government. Legislators should be held to the same standards as the rest of us in state government. Legislators convicted of serious ethics violations (Like those Sen. Ford and others are accused of) should forfeit all benefits from the state. The politicians are the faces in the news, and until corruption is stopped at that level the public will never have confidence in state government.



Way to go Governor Bredesen!!!!

I am very proud of you and your efforts towards bringing Ethics Reform to Tennessee Government. You are a brave and honorable man.

Keep up the good work!

Tom Criswell

When lobbyist are involved with money and perks, it's no wonder a person being paid lower wages than a McDonald's manager would be tempted. Our representatives need to have wages brought up into the 21st century.

It also stuns me, in recent light of the Tennessee Waltz scandle, that representatives are just now acting to pass an ethics bill!

Mr. Governor, the people of the State do not expect our Representatives to be prefect or be unerring in their ways, but we do expect them to obey the same laws we have to obey, pay the same penalty we would have to pay, and be basicially honest in there attempts to make Tennessee a State we are all proud of. The day to day dealings of the Representative body should enhance every resident of Tennessee, not line the pockets of the individuals in power.

The oath they take when coming into office ought to be enforced, if they are found to be in violation, the Bodies in Goverment ought to have the brass to act rather than make sorry excuses and try to "stand behind" their mo

I believe stronger oversight of our lawmakers' involvement in areas of ethical concern is long overdue in Tennessee. Here in West Tennessee and Memphis I have felt for years that there were blatant practices among some of our representatives which allowed them and their families and friends to profit from government funding of programs ranging from TennCare to childcare and nursing home care. The diverting of tax money to corrupt lawmakers undermines the faith of the taxpayers and makes a mockery of the democratic process in general. When lawmakers back off of reforms due to a misplaced sense of obligation to their colleagues rather than to those people who elected them to office they deny the serious nature of the crime that is being committed and allow the erosion of the democracy to continue. I would urge the state government to make strong penalties for this kind of abuse of public trust. We then will be able to have more confidence in the decisions made for the future of our state. Thank you for th

I am a citizen of Elizabethton, Tennessee. We in Elizabethton are currently in a crisis regarding the Elizabethton School Board and the Director of Schools. The Director of Schools, Dr. Roper, in a public radio interview made a comment that the concerned citizens of Elizabethton are "low class" people. That should not be a statement that a public official is heard saying. I would like to have the laws changed and the Director of Schools become an elected position across Tennessee. As it stands right now any Director of Schools does not have to answer to anyone or explain, why. Whatever happened to the good ethics of treating others like you would like to be treated yourself. I would very much like to see the law changed and the Director of School's across Tennessee to become an elected by the people position. Thank you for your time.

Hold people accountable for ths actions they take.

I think we can make ethics laws stronger by digging deeper into back grounds of all law makers and if a law maker commits an act that is inappropriate or against the law, I strongly urge the Governor to ask for their resignation immediately. I am a voter of every election and if I have enough confidence in a person to try to get them elected based on what they stated they would do, and be honest, then that is what I expect them to do. If they do not live up to the expectations and guidelines of the state laws, then they should be removed immediately, regardless of who they are. I consider myself to be above average honest person and expect that same thing of our law makers.

I am also please with the step you took in trying to resolve this Ten-care situation. There are too many people on ten-care that should not be, and I think there should be a task force to really dig in the financial background of each and every one of the families that is on ten-care, through the Social Security Admin, TN Dept of Vetera

<p>Ethics will never be take seriously</p> <p>as long as you allow Naifeh to take</p> <p>bribes by using his wife.The law must be changed to outlaw this situation.</p>
<p>If I respond, will I be punished by my Director?</p>
<p>It's not necessarily the laws that need to be stronger but the enforcement of those laws. There are simply too many "politics" in politics. People complain about the citizens of our state knowing how to "work the system" -- maybe they learned from the lawmakers???</p>
<p><b>ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN NOT POLICE THEMSELVES. AN OVERSITE COMMITTEE IS NECESSARY. A POLITIAN CAN NOT DETERMINE WHAT IS ETHICAL WHEN DEALING WITH THEIR PEERS. GET EVERYTHING OPEN.</b></p>
<p>I am embarressed concerning the recent exposure of our elected officials to corruption. It is unfortunate that these in whom we trust to carry out our governmental affairs are so easily bought. Please pursue both strongest enforcement and implentation of higher standards for elected officials. Lobbying is a right we dare not limit from a freedom of expression or speech, however thse entities must be scrutinized to limit undo influence in bribes or excessive campaign contribution. Thank You</p>
<p>As a taxpayer I resent these politicians that go into office as middle class financially and after a few years they are wealthy. They use our hard earned money in tax revenues to feather their own nest. I think an audit should be done on all public servants to see where their money is coming from. The taxes we pay on our homes, from our checks and the sales tax are ridiculously high. It is hard to get ahead yet these legislators etc. have all these perks and fatten their bank accounts while they are supposedly serving the people. I think the only honest public servant is Gov. Bredeson because he does not even take a salary. He is a true public servant. I know most people must receive a salary but not become wealthy while serving in public office. It makes the taxpayers think that all public officials are dirty. All of this sexual harrassment is also disgusting. What are they doing with their time. Playing hanky panky.</p>
<p>I would love to see campaign reform/ethics policy which would cause PAC's and industry not to be able to finance the campaigns</p> <p>of our law makers. We all know that they expect and will receive favors and greater considerations the greater their contributions.</p> <p>Disclosure shopuld be complete to</p> <p>where the voter could see where "every" penny comes from.</p>
<p>Governor, I am proud to be able to call you my leader. You do a great job and I know your administration is doing all that it can to be the best it can be. Thanks for being an inspiring leader for us all, and for maintaining such a high standard of openness for your administration.</p>
<p>Before an individual is appointed to serve in the government in a cabinet position, as a commissioners or any advisory capacity, board or commission,that individual should be required to fill out a questionnaire designed to reveal one's past and present history as it relates to matters involving functions of the office that may conflict with his/her future performance. Each appointed individual should be required to attend an Ethics class thought by UT's Professor Fitzgerald or some other person qualified to teach such Ethics course. I agree with Governor Phil Bredesen on how to make Tennessee's ethics laws stronger, i.e. by appointing a Citizen Advisory Group on Ethics with the power to review and recommend laws and policies related to lobbying activities, campaign finance, disclosure requirements, and current penalties for ethics violations. Thus, I believe this will have the effect to restore confidence in the government's activities and programs.</p>
<p>Campaign Finance restrictions - Candidates restricted to only take donations for those people that live (primary residence)in the District represented. For State wide Offices may only take Donations from residents of Tennessee (primary residence). City/County wide candidates restricted to only taking donations from individuals whose primary residence is within the City/county.</p> <p>Full campaign finance disclosue of every dime (posted to the internet by source and amount).</p> <p>Elected public leaders must be accountable to the citizens for every public dime taken in the name of the</p>

public trust. They must set the standard of propriety for the community and set positive examples for the children.

Law makers must obey the laws that they pass for the rest of us. (ie. Open meetings and records). In our efforts to serve the community, we as servants of the people, know that sometimes hard decisions are required of us, but those decisions must always be made within the sight of the public.

All Public Records, an

We should not have to have a law on ethics, we as good citizens should elect good ethical representatives. On TennCare, one big problem is the emergency rooms in the hospitals, take that money out of the picture and I feel TennCare will run on its own, the ER's are bilking the system.

Just as the police officers can be fired for "conduct unbecoming" so should our representatives and congress personell. Their conduct should be above reproach and if not- they should be forced to resign. Start at the top!

Not being an ethicist, but a simple minded human being, I believe that practical ethics is developed during our life maturation process which is based on simple respect for each other. A guiding principle for each of us should be the realization of how our actions affect our fellow human beings lives. In other words, has our life been lived as being worth-more or worth-less. What we "leave behind does really matter."

I have an idea as to involving communication toward the general public to make the topic and understanding of ethics better and stronger. I work at the dept of safety and I have an idea to use our drivers license stations as a public service announcement center. Everyone sooner or later has to go to our DL stations for one reason or another. I recently had to go to one of them and it's pretty stagnant just sitting there along with many other individuals. If we could install monitors that play announcements about health, critical issues, and Government issues as they sit up to 45 minutes with their undivided attention, would be a great service to the public. I've tried to secure a couple of grants to fund this project but to no avail at this writing. I think this would be the best, less expensive way to address ethics and inform/educate the community about critical issues as well as some vital health announcements. We could play the Governors news, information about organ donations, assorted health campaigns, and

The changes will still lack credibility with regular citizens. It is the same type of people on the panel as the ones they are making the rules for. They will still put in loopholes and ways around the law. They are politicians. It is what they do. You either need ordinary citizens on the panel, or a group of citizens to review the recommendations. In order to reestablish credibility, you have to have outsiders make the rules.

Ethics legislation should be extremely simple. I am a state employee and the rules we are given are simple and cover everything. They are:

1. You don't accept favors
2. You don't give favors.

What can be simpler than that?

One should examine the Conflict of Interest Policies signed by all state employees, not just those in executive branch. Run a financial check to see if they are on a conflicting entities payroll..such as any consulting firms. Whether disclosed or not this tie can affect a person's ability to be objective.

EVERYTHING should be reported thru the media(Print,TV,and radio concerning lobbying activities,and what these lobbyist expect to gain.

Unfortunately there are those who cannot be offered money without greed taking over common judgement,pride and dignity. These people we need to make rules to protect from their own weaknesses. There are people who would take advantage of these officials for selfish gain. Therefore to protect the dignity of our fine state we need to closely monitor any possibility of misuse of political power.

The Legislature should live by the same laws as the citizens do. Presently they appear to behave like they are above the law. Also we need to do away with lobbyists, they represent big business interest and not the people's interest.

If they are not set up so that their strength is not associated by partisan politics they will be too weak to

be effective. In Tennessee both parties seem guilty of allowing bad things to occur in TennCare since its beginning, even when reliable information was going to the oversight committee that would have alerted a truly unbiased concerned person.

Penalties should be stiffer, but that won't stop cheating or getting around the laws. Take special interests out of the campaign process. They may belong on capitol hill, but in elections.

Our government officials have their

constituents best interest at heart not the who can pay them the most for their votes.

Each official should account for their monies. It is not an evasion of privacy, it just goes along with the job.

Also, I believe that big business should be held accountable for their payoffs.

When the legislature was voting for ethics reform, I e-mailed Senator Jerry Cooper's office and asked him to vote for real reform. Meaning, that Betty Anderson (Naifeh) would not be allowed to lobby.... Senator Cooper said that it was ok to GRANDFATHER in such situations but to prevent them in the future. If its wrong for the future it is wrong from the past and should be stopped. Jimmy Naifeh is getting rich off the state of Tennessee (which happens to be partly my money).

If you want the trust of the people then run the state like we would a business... That is why we elected you. If there is corruption get rid of it now-- Don't Grandfather it in.

Thank you for your attention.

They should be subject to the same

rules as state employees. We have

been instructed not to accept anything, even a cup of coffee.

We need a way to get political corruption out of our school systems. People being moved and fired at the whim of a political bully... who likes who best. please vote to ELECT our superintendents not appoint.

1. Elected persons must be held accountable and have SAME restrictions as other State employees.

2. TERM LIMITS, no more than two (2) terms allowed in any elected office. That would take care of good ole boy network.

3. Legislators must be taught they are NOT above the law. They are more so PUBLIC SERVANTS than anyone eles.

4. Required continuing education on ethics.

5. QUIT trying to 'Legislate' morality and get to taking care of the real business of the State.

6. Did I say TERM LIMITS? Bears repeating. TERM LIMITS.....

Ethics is defined as :

A set of principles of right conduct.

A theory or a system of moral values

ethics (used with a sing. verb) The study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by a person; moral philosophy.

ethics (used with a sing. or pl. verb) The rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession: medical ethics.

With that in mind ethics are as fluid as the society in which one embraces. What is ethical conduct for

one, may be offensive behavior towards another. In our nation, and especially our state of blended cultures, striking an ethical balance could pose a problem, however it shouldn't.

The cornerstone of ethical behavior is to "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you."

Need there say more?

A management style I was privileged to learn and experience

"Firm, Fair, and Consistent". Every time, every situation, every person, if one upholds these 3 adjectives in decision making processes, need for addi

Have employees that violate these laws face the consequences personally. So many times when mistakes are made EVERY employee are made subject to reenforcemet of rules, lectures, training, etc. although they have doing their job correctly. In short, the ones abusing these rules should be the one held accountable!

Why is Hickey now the director of TennCare?

(J.D. Hickey, a former McKinsey consultant who worked on the study, is now Bredesen's TennCare director.)

The people need to feel/know their voice is heard. The Lobbying body have special interest to protect, sometime conflicting with the people of Tennessee.

I do not think it is as neccesary to make the laws stronger as it is to remove the temptation to violate them. If the state legislature were a full time position and the salary of the legislature reflected this - and they had absolute transparency - it would alleviate the need to have punishments because it would all be visible to the people of the state. Absolute transparency and a better salary would cure the problem.

First I think we have some good and honest elected men & women in our State Government. But we have some who are not as good, and I think if they are caught up in anything that is dishonest they should be reprimanded. I also think if they are caught taking money (which is against all rules which have been set up for years) then they should be put out of office. Because if they take money or any gifts under the table then they would do any thing to better themself. We need good honest people in our goverment who will look out for our best interest. We work for a salary and they receive a salary and they are no better than us. If they can't live on their salary they should get another job. We have enough dishonest people in the state and we sure don't need people in office who are just as bad. Governor Bredesen we think you are doing a great job and we support you 100%. I am proud to say I voted for you and I will vote for you in any campaign you are in.

It impossible for Mr. Bredesen to EVER restore our Trust in our Gov here. He has TOTALY runied lives from all that Depend on TennCare For Medications and Dr.s. I take Medications that are to \$\$\$ for anybody if I dont I DIE. Now people will lose there Homes, but MR Bredesen DONT CARE he is RICH. So your anwser is its HOPELESS in my VIEW. I think he needs to STEP down. I guess his LEAGACY AND Campaign slogan is, "BEHOLD I AM DETROYER OF WORLDS"!

I am sure the governor has the tools and the qualifications to make sure these laws are enforced. But what I would like to see are stiffer penalties if these laws are violated.

Continue to do what you are currently doing

Disclosure should be stringent and enforce with heavy penalties, including felonies for extreme cases. One should not be able to vote on a bill if conflict exists. No legislator should be allowed to Lobby the first two years after leaving the legislature. PACS should be eliminated. Individual contributions of \$2,000 per year should be the limit.

Lobbist are able to influence our lawmaker's discretions. People who are guilty of ethics violations should lose retirements and be prosecuted and spend time in prison.

The original intent for elected officials was to serve the public. They are public servants and should not enter politics to be served financial wealth. An elected official's net worth should grow ONLY in relation to the cost of living from the day he/she takes office till the day he/she leaves office. Also; they should not be able to hide income in a spouse's name in pretense of that spouse having a serious position in public office. Elected officials should not be allowed to bend the law any way they can for their own gain. Several officials were caught outright stealing money as in bribes. But only the stupid ones were caught.

How many more elected officials are getting wealthy at the expense of the tax payers but they are smarter and doing it JUST inside the limits of the law. Sincerely, Bob McCracken
term limits
Governor, with me deepest respect, as with TennCare,you are taking on a task that should have been dealt with years ago. As a Law Enforcement Officer, I have a real problem with certain laws not applying to Politcal Officials. an example is DUI on a Senator or Congress person on the way to or from sessions. So, if they get in an accident and kill someone(and were under the influence of alcohol) it is ok because they were on the way to a meeting for the State. I am a State of TN employee and very proud to be one, but if the same type of thing happened and I was driving under the influence, I would be put under the jail and loose everything I have worked so hard to provide my family. I truely feel that a Politian in no way should be above the law. they should have to abide by the same laws as those who they represent. "Do as I say not as I do" has been the rule of politics for way too many long. As a Special Agent for the Office of Inspector General, I thank you for the opportunity to work for you. I ha
Our public officials should approach their jobs with integrity. Rules and regulations should be established for all politicians and lawmakers. Politicians should establish ethics rules that's clearly written for all to understand. Consequences should be spelled out clearly, and all violators should be punished inaccordance to the ethic rules established. From watching the news media it appears that the state of Tennessee does not have any ethic rules and regulations spelled out for understanding. The politicians (lawmakers) certainly know how to raise our taxes inorder for them to have a better life, but cannot write and establish rules to govner their behavioras lawmakers.
I have been with the State of Tennessee for 25 years. Not only do I think that the Ethics Bill regarding lobbying activities, campaign finance, disclosure requirements and current penalties. I think that the DOP Policies and Procedures should be redefine because the policies they have in place now is not enforced until an employee files a discrimination suit or greviance against their supervisor or department.
Ethics - why would the governor put someone like Larry Wallace on an ethics committee? You might ought to check out the ethics of this man - I am disappointed in your Governor.
I DO NOT THINK THEAT LOBBYING SHOULD BE ALLOWED AT ALL. THOSE PEOPLE WERE PUT IN OFFICE, AND ARE BEING PAID BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE. TO WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF TENNESEE. ALSO I THINK THAT ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN PROVEN TO HAVE TAKEN BRIBES SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF OFFICE RIGHT AWAY. IT SHOULD NOT MATTER IF THEY ARE IN POLITICAL OFFICE OR NOT. ALSO BRIBERY IS A CRIME. THEY SHOULD SERVE MANDATORY JAIL TIME. JUST BECAUES THEY ARE IN PUBLIC OFFICE SHOULD NOT MAKE THEM ABOVE THE LAW. ALSO ANYONE FOUND TO HAVE GIVE FAVORS OR HIGH PAYING JOBS TO PEOPLE, BECAUSE THEY ARE FRIENDS OR RELITIVES. SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF OFFICE RIGHT AWAY, AND BE MADE TO PUBLICILY APPOLIZE TO THE PEOPLE OF TENNESSEE.
How many of the Ethics Advisory Group are lawyers? How many are lobbyist? If there are more than one of each on a committee of 6 - 10 you have ýthe fox watching the hen houseý! The longer someone stays in office the easier it is to corrupt them...even if they are honest in the beginning....term length is a must!...I find they will tell you anything to get your vote, then make all kinds of excuses for not keeping promises...although I vote, I sometimes wonder why I bother...I travel throughout East Tennessee and frequently hear how very unhappy we, the common people, are concerning politics.
There is a feeling that once a person is elected to office we are of no importance anymoreýthat is, until the next electionýmany people say that all politicians are crooked, they just have not been caughtýethics does not appear to be the number one priority in governmentýnor a priority at allýI will be interested to see how an ethics committee plans to make a person ethicalýthen we can take the prototype to our public Lobbyist have too much influence. They should have less financial influence in political campaigns.
I feel that anyone who takes money or gifts from special interest groups should loose their position in government.
I don't understand, in my job I can not even accept a handmade pot holder from my elderly client without fear of job loss, so how can those deciding the laws be allowed to accept money and expensive gifts? I feel there should be a zero tolerance policy for such behaviors. If gifts are accepted, the person should show were such gifts were donated to charity and did not benefit the public servant.
As a state employee, if I take money from an organization or am taken on trips by an organization that

potentially does can do work for my agency, and I get caught, then I am fired. Why does that not hold true in the same way for the legislature?

It will be hard to reform ethics as long as we have lawyers. They have no ethics.

A system of checks and balances is important. Accountability is priority, but too much red tape allows for hidden activities, finances, etc. Loop holes in laws/regulations need to be closed.

I FEEL THAT EVERYONE SHOULD BE TREATED FAIR. I FEEL THAT AFTER WORKING HOUR TIME IS YOUR BUSINESS IF A PERSON GET IN A LITTLE TROUBLE AFTER WORKING HOUR AND SOME STATE EMPLOYEES KEEP THEIR JOB AND SOME STATE EMPLOYEES GET FIRED. I FEEL THAT AFTER HOUR IS YOUR TIME NOT NASHVILLE TIME. I FEEL THAT ALL EMPLOYEES EVEN HIGHER UP IN NASHVILLE SHOULD DO A RECORD CHECK ON ALL JUST TO SEE HOW MANY OF NASHVILLE HIGHER UP WILL REMAIN WITH A JOB. SOMEONE NEED TO CHECK ALL EMPLOYEES FIRED WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEAR TO SEE IF NASHVILLE FIRED THE EMPLOYEES FAIRLY NOT JUST BECAUSE I CAN DO IT TO YOU. ALL STATE EMPLOYEES SHOULD CLOCK IN AND OUT NOT WRITE IN AND OUT ON A SIGN IN SHEET FOR EVERYONE TO BE TREATED FAIR. TREAT EVERYONE THE WAY THAT YOU EXPECT TO BE TREATED.

If caught doing wrong they should lose their their pensions and everything else just like an ordinary state employee. Please address the issue about contractors coming in at a higher pay and no education and not even through the proper register. we have to show our degree before even being considered for a job. I am leaving State Government for more college and if I come back I hope that it has changed. This is very unfair and it goes on every day.

As you know I am an Attorney and Registered Lobbyist. From personal experiences, I can say that the legislative process is wrought with problems. I favor no payments to legislators, PACs, etc. whatsoever and think this can be accomplished. Instead salaries if legislators should be increased and the State should provide campaign funding. Radical concept? Maybe not. Cheaper in the long run. I think so. I would be excited to help any way I can.

I believe that any elected official or government employee can make an error and should be allowed to correct it. Integrity, however, is non-negotiable. Gov. Bredesen is a public servant who leads the state with a non-negotiable code of ethics. He has my respect.

The current group of legislators and public servants probably grew up during a time when parents and teachers failed to stress the importance of the principles of honor or integrity. Since it is too late to redeem this group, we need to look to the future and, as parents and teachers, make high moral character matter again. What is wrong with teaching them, "I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those that do." And, "I will not take advantage of anyone by virtue of my office or position." When government employees, either state or federal, understand they are servants of the people, and not a privileged class, then "we the people" will begin to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Sincerely,

John L. Baldner

Col, USAF (Ret)

I was thrilled this morning when I read that the Governor's office was encouraging citizens to contact the Governor for feedback on the Ethics legislation. First, let me say that the Governor's team is doing the right thing with this outreach to the citizens of Tennessee. Second, the past years in your first term have been prosperous for Tennessee. In response to the Ethics concern, I am confident that current laws are quite sufficient. The states responsibility should be tighter control and more enforcement of current standards. Our state does not need to add laws that will ultimately be enforced as those already have. More importantly, I strongly urge Governor Bredesen NOT to hold a Special Legislative Session. If our ethics code truly does need to be altered allow it to wait until January session. The tax dollars do not need to host what I consider an un-needed session. Please keep doing what is truly best for Tennessee, as you already have.

Warmest Regards,

Grey Watson

Prosecute those on the take.

Take away their pensions.

Make examples of those who break the rules.

Make clear cut to the point rules

and stick to them.

It is a sad commentary on our state government that we must rely on the news media and FBI "sting" operations to investigate and uncover alleged abuses of discretion and breaches of the public trust by elected officials. And even when such acts are exposed, the legislative body huddles together to try to divert attention and/or to shield the alleged wrongdoer(s). The "Tennessee Waltz" bribes, misuse of government vehicles and drivers, claiming per diem for Nashville area lawmakers who live at home, and taking gifts from known lobbyists: all are unethical, immoral, wasteful and against the good of the State of Tennessee.

We have an urgent need for a rigid code of ethics, just like attorneys and judges have, and a vigilant system of monitoring activities of those who would abuse the system. A swift and strict means of dealing with those who abuse the powers with which they have been vested should be instituted to deter further unlawful and unethical conduct and wasteful misuse of the elected offices which

Lois DeBerry does not need to be the chairman of the ethics comm. when she is a part of the problem.

Dear Governor Bredesen:

I would have preferred to communicate my recommendations regarding ways to assure ethical conduct by elected officials in Tennessee government directly to your "Ethics Advisory Panel," but this may not be practical since there is no "Town Hall" meeting scheduled for the Nashville area.

Therefore, I'm including my major recommendations in the enclosed copy of my article ("How can Ethical Conduct by Elected Officials be Assured in Tennessee?"). I would appreciate you distributing a copy of my recommendations to all members of your "Ethics Advisory Panel" for their consideration.

Your acknowledgement of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Grover L. Porter, PhD, CPA

ENCLOSURE (Will be submitted separately due to file size)

Financial disclosure reporting requirements should be the same of IRS requirements. ANY source of income greater than \$5, from a single source, should be reported. What will get folks in serious trouble is messing with the IRS.

First, I think there should be a 3 year period between service in government and a job as a lobbyist. There are too many conflicts of interest when someone goes straight from being a Senator, Representative or other Government worker, then moves directly into a position as a lobbyist.

Secondly, I think each candidate should be given a set amount of money to campaign with. Part of his or her challenge would be to make the most of their money. This would prove to the people that they know how to live on a budget. It would also end the advantage of being rich and buying your way into government.

Thirdly, Lobbyists provide important information when legislation is being considered that legislators know little about. I think the lobbyists should only have access to legislators by request of the legislators or with their invitation. In other words, lobbyists cannot contact a legislator in person without permission. They could send files and information they feel is applicable to pending legislation, along

To Gov. Bredesen and to those whom it may concern: I am embarrassed to admit to be from a state who



has allowed it's healthcare insurance plan to fail as miserably as TN Care has. Every individual has the right to adequate and thorough healthcare, and the state in which our healthcare crisis has become was very unavoidable and is unacceptable. I refuse to vote for an individual or individuals who advocate removing innocent people from their very-needed healthcare insurance and in an essence, are sentencing many people to an early and avoidable death. There were many options and avenues that could have been explored before ending healthcare for thousands of people. For instance, if \$1.00 was taken from every paycheck earned in the state, this could certainly help to at least get the situation out of crisis mode, and surly many would be willing to donate more for this cause. Once again, this situation is an embarrassment to this state and your administration. The demise of TN Care has to be the most uneth the government needs to be MORE concerned about the working class people. There is a state full of people willing and able to work but all the jobs are disappearing. I also think it is a shame the elderly people can't get help with their medicine and Dr. bills and have worked all their lives and paid taxes and I see young healthy men that have never worked and paid taxes and still get their tn care. Talk about ethics the government has none! I know this is not what you were talking about but if people aren't treated fair locally.....why should I think it is any different in the government sect?

In the political arena politicians are supposed to be workers for the people that put them in office, instead it it the "good ols boy" system. You scratch my back I'll scratch yours!Politicians that have been elected to these offices were elected by the people & for the people, They were voted either democrat or republican. At the end of the election it was time for them to go to work, not for A democrat or A repu

We need to make it more difficult for 'outside interests' to influence legislators by making them accountable for how they make their views known. I believe it is 'OK' to let our representatives know how we feel as individuals or groups (organizations, etc)but everyone needs to be up-front about their contacts/influence. Legislators should not gain personally or finacially by supporting/opposing certain laws/rules. The recent legislators who got caught with "their hands in the cookie jar" need to be severely disciplined (yes, go to jail)for their misuse of the public trust; and shame on the people in their districts who are continuing to support them. Shame, shame.

Dear Governor Bredesen,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer ethics feedback. I have a number of questions, offered in good faith.

Do you think that politicians would be considering ethics legislation had not the FBI gotten involved?

Do you suppose insiders knew about former senator Ford's graft prior to his arrest? Did those in the know do anything about it? I can answer this one: they buried ethics legislation.

Did you or anybody else in government respond to Ford's admission that he did not live in the district he represented? Does anyone know or care whether any othersý serve fraudulently?

Do you consider it ethical for politicians to:

1 Try to sneak in an income tax most citizens don't want,

2 Call out the dogs when citizens catch wind of the plan, then

3 Allow a pro-government group to take up residence in the state capital?

Would you allow me and a bunch of my buddies to camp out with you to protest a state policy? Would we have to favor increasing the size and scope

Thursday, July 21, 2005; 12:17 PM

Yes, Governorýquestion as to why the Governor of one stateýthat is Governor Bredesenýwould recommend to the Governor of Mississippiýwhich is the way it was in the Tennessean the other dayýthat Mr. White, who resigned because of sexual harassment and a whole bunch of other things that were listed in the Tennessean--

Why would you recommend to the Governor of Mississippi that a person like this would be president of a college down there? Is not the president of a college supposed to be a role model for the students? How can you think of anybody like Mr. White with his record being the president? Why could you recommend him to be the president of a college and be a role model for the students?

I do not understand, Mr. Bredeesen. I thought you were a lot smarter than that. For some of us that was a royal no-brainer. We got enough problems with education without putting people of questionable character.

According to the Tennessean now that's where I'm getting my info

Friday, July 22; 8:14 AM

My name is James Mahan. Phone number is 615-374-0404. Address is 2801 South Hawthorne Street, Chattanooga, 37404.

I want to tell you Governor you're about as full as manure as one person could ever get.

If you start talking about ethics, go back to the Bible, instead of some dictionary you got on the wall.

Go back to the Bible for a change that's what you first live by. All of a sudden you've got to put in money for cameras over the freeways, but you ain't got money to help sick people. My wife and I draw \$1400 a month in Social Security, so how in the world are we going to pay our medicine bills and everything else when we together take 18 different pills? Different medicines? Help us get back help fellow Americans like you're supposed to.

Friday, July 22; 8:16 AM

I wanted to ask the Governor to do a couple of things regarding ethics. First of all, I don't believe any special session on ethics will have any kind of credibility in the state as long as the indicted legislators participate in the process and really the entire legislative process is going to have a cloud over it as long as they're involved.

He needs to have the leadership to step forward and to call for their resignations and require it especially the Democrats in his own party.

Secondly, I believe that the special session needs to be held in January, like Senator Ramsey has called for to save the state a lot of money. There's no need for a special session at the end of the year just a few months or weeks before the new session begins.

Thirdly, I believe that legislators need to be prohibited from serving as outside consultants. I guess that's what Senator Ford was especially when there's legislation pending before the legislature or anything that they're involved with.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 8:49 AM

Yes, Governor, I am a former county board supervisor here in Tennessee. We call them commissioners from up in Wisconsin.

And, I know through my own experience that having the legislature oversee themselves is nothing but dangerous. You have to get them outside commission totally independent of these people.

Otherwise, it's like the fox watching the henhouse. These people they'll make sure that the rules only fit some people, the ones their political enemies are.

This has to be done by a separate group of people. It cannot be done by the legislature itself, sir.

It will not be done fairly if it's done that way. That's all there is to it. It has to be done by an independent

group. Thank you very much.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 10:36 AM

Yes, a comment about your ethics. I think that it is somewhat specious to start off an ethics inquiry having an Attorney General who's an attorney and a politician heading it. You need regular citizens. We know ethics. People that are in government on an individual basis may, but as a whole, they do not. And, as a whole, we have come to distrust them, and rightly so. Maybe not individually, but collectively, the word *ypolitiany* and the word *yattorneyy* we do not trust.

I would suggest strongly going throughout the state. I would suggest strongly replacing these membersyobviously keeping them on thereybut not head of that. Have some member from the private sector, and not the CEO of a companyysomeone that works rather than dictates their own salary.

I certainly hope that this works. We certainly need it. And, I will visit your ethics line to see the schedule. I certainly hope that you come to Chattanooga. Thank you.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 10:38 AM

I can't believe that the Governor of the State of Tennessee has gotten himself into such a mess. We are losing complete confidence in that man. He has not performed as he should. He has not helped to pass the laws that should be passed.

He has not promoted the Ethics Committee enough in getting better, stricter laws. I was amazed at the paper this morning. It shows a list of ethics bills that have been put through this year, and the few that have passed, and the number that have failed. It is absolutely ridiculous.

And, the Governoryas far as lym concernedyis just as bad as some of the others that have been interviewed and are going through a process with the FBI. He should straighten up his act.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 11:21 AM

Yes, lym calling in regards to the TennCare situation. lyeve got three kids. I work a full-time job. The mother doesnyt pay any child support, so lym doing it on my own. You guys are pulling my TennCare.

Now, I donyt know exactly whatys going on with you or what kind of government youyre trying to run. But, you wonyt get elected next time. I voted for you this time, but I wonyt vote for you again.

I work hard, and I just canyt afford insurance. So, I donyt know what to sayyYou wonyt get reelected. lym sure of it. Thank you.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 3:53 PM

My name is Rachel Wylman. I live in Waverly, Tennessee. lyeve been a resident of Tennessee since 1988. I moved here from Philadelphia. Their ethics were not too good up there either. Thatys why I left after 18 years.

I just feel simply at age 54 that if everyone would follow a real simple directive that God gave in the Bible through Jesusyand it was to ydo all things as though you do them unto meyyIf people would go to work and look past their employer and work as though theyyre working directly for Gody

Whenever they make that decisionywhich theyyre going to be accountable to God at the endytheyyIl have to answer for it. Theyyre not going to have to answer to their employer; theyyre going to have to answer to God. If they clocked in and didnyt show up to work and got paid for it, if they left early, if they took too long a break, if they did something that was a little shady in the dealywheeling and dealing or whateverytook moneyymisdirected funds, goods, services.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 3:59 PM

Yes, lye'd like to find out, Governor, what youyre going to do about the TennCareyby kicking out people that have to have medicine to keep them alive like myself. The thing about it is that TennCare has been

hurting a long time, but the reason they're hurting is people giving insurance to people that's not living in the United States, and not been made citizens of the United States.

They come in, they buy companies, and they take jobs away from everybody.

Wal-Mart and the Mexicans there needs to be something done there. There's where the shortfall is. That's why y'all are in trouble with TennCare.

But I feel this way the day you come to run again for another office and I have talked to many, many, many people you will never ever get elected to nothing no more because you're kicking people as ourselves, being disabled. I'm handicapped. I've got mental health, and I've got standard health problems. My blood pressure pills are gone. I have all kinds of stuff th

Friday, July 22, 2005; 4:03 PM

Governor Bredesen, this is Lynn Durham in Jasper, Tennessee. I'm not calling about the ethics; I'm calling about the TennCare because I am a kidney transplant patient, and you're cutting me off, and I have no access to any other forms of medication. I called your Rx Outreach Program; none of my transplant drugs or any of my medicines are on it.

If you'd like to call me back, or have one of your representatives call me back,

423-837-5290 is my work number.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 4:12 PM

This is Mary Louise Trout. My number is 865-882-2488. I'd appreciate a call back. I wanted to tell you about what the legislators are doing here in Tennessee the state and federal. I called them all called all the commissioners, all the law enforcement officers, TBI, and everybody.

It's about 25 different agencies that I called about the way that they're doing people in the nursing homes. And nobody called me back. So, if you're interested in what I have to say, call me back.

The doctors everybody knows what's going on. Even the people on the TV they make jokes about it and have films and movies about it about how bad it is But nobody's doing anything And, if they can prove death, the family gets paid off, and nobody goes to jail.

I think that's a crying shame. In this world I was always proud of the United States.

But, this nursing home after the way they did my mother, I can't even go to church anymore because the people that's sitting in the church are

Friday, July 22, 2005; 4:19 PM

Yes, I just got the email from Governor Bredesen. I'm going mail do mine by mail.

I want to discuss how blacks are being treated unfairly within the state government how blacks are held in economic slavery where they cannot be elevated in the departments.

I will be sending my information to you by mail because I started to go to Channel 5 with this, but I will send it to you how blacks are being mistreated in state government.

Friday, July 22, 2005; 4:35 PM

Thank you for this opportunity. I'm an employee of the state of Tennessee, and I would like to begin by saying that I am of the opinion that the ethics panel should have community participation from non-legislative connected employees non-upper echelon state employees in order that it would be unbiased and objective. And in the cases of accusations of harassment sexual harassment any kind of harassment or discrimination I believe that the same standard should apply, without exception, at all levels of state government.

In regard to the use of tax money for Mr. Naifeh and Mr. Wilder to have around-the-clock highway patrol protection escort company and otherwise tie up two capable state employees based on the history of failed information, it doesn't justify that there is a need for their security that exceeds that of other members of the legislature. I think that this violates the trust of the state of Tennessee and is an abuse of, and a misuse of, taxpayers' funds. An

Friday, July 22, 2005; 4:36 PM

Good afternoon, Governor Bredesen. I am calling regarding Senator Joe Haynes. I went to Mr. Haynes regarding corruption within the city of Goodlettsville, and I was brushed off.

I learned that Mr. Haynes was not only a state senator, but he is the attorney for the city of Goodlettsville as well. This man should not be sitting on the ethics committee and being an attorney for the city of Goodlettsville. This is a conflict of interest. How can a constituent go to a senator regarding corruption within a city government if he is also the attorney representing them?

I will also put this in writing. I want this man to resign. I appreciate your help and your consideration today. Thank you for doing a wonderful job for Tennessee. Goodbye.

Monday, July 25, 2005; 9:10 AM

Governor, I want to thank you for this opportunity that you have provided citizens to state their opinion about these lobbyists that have corrupted the government, not only in Tennessee but in all fifty states and particularly in the federal government---Washington, DC where these politicians get out of the government and then become these lobbyists. They're given money, whiskey, and women to go in there and bribe other Congressmen just like they're bribing our state legislature right now.

I thank you because I think you're a fine Governor and an honest man, and I certainly do appreciate you, but please have these legislators make a rule that once every month they have to meet some place in the community where the citizens' representatives' people can question them, ask them questions, and burn them up make them cringe and creep and crawl. We pay their salaries to be legislators, not to take money and bribes and women and whiskey from these people that buy them to cheat

I don't know if ethics reform or enforcement of current ethics is necessary for the recent problems. I work for government and I'm a professional engineer. Ethics is an important issue and preferential treatment due to gifts is unacceptable no matter how large the gift. Also, no politician should ever so openly make money from the state except for his personal paycheck. The perks for state office are substantial and need strong review. The state shouldn't support a career track of professional politician. Sorry.

As you have requested, comments on ethics are being sent to you as a completer of the TGMI course. Dr. Michael Fitzgerald, Prof. of Political Science at UT-K, provided an excellent overview of this subject and its role in our jobs as well as our whole life. He stressed that in order to be an effective leader ethics is essential. It is difficult when state employees are held to a higher standard than state legislators. For example, as a state employee, I am not permitted to accept a pen or even a pencil from a potential contractor. Legislators and others in high places in our government are accepting dinners, cash, and many other gratuities/favors which gives the appearance that all state government is unethical.

As a principled person, I appreciate your statement on ethics and wish that ALL those who represent State government from the least to highest could have the training that I received at TGMI related to ethics. This could potentially help all employees do the right things who assist in rebuild

While there seems to be a "get those rascals out" philosophy afoot, we need also to remember that these elected officials who are now being targeted by the media as corrupt, corrupt, low lifes living high at our expense, are still the ELECTED representatives of their districts. They should be treated with respect. If they are really such low lifes as they have been portrayed, the people should not elect them, but if they have been elected, they certainly deserve some degree of professional courtesy because of that fact. They are not being well remunerated for their services in the official sense. For years, "perks" in the form of power and influence (as well as some out and out cash advantages) has been the order of the

day for legislators of both parties. They knew the rules, they used the perks and they got things done. Each time the parties changed power, we have had to listen to "throw the rascals out" as they were replaced by another group who were as bad or worse. I think that we should continuously run

Dear Governor Bredesen:

Let me take a moment to congratulate and compliment you for having appointed Senator Ben Atchley to head the special panel on ethics reform for the State of Tennessee.

Of course you are well aware of the pride we Knox Countians take in Senator Atchley, but the fact of the matter is you couldn't have made a better choice.

Anyone remotely familiar with Ben and his well deserved reputation for honesty and integrity will take heart in any proposals submitted for consideration.

Once again, congratulations and warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Catherine F. Quist

Knox County Circuit, Civil Sessions and Juvenile Court Clerk

Dear Sir:

The impetus to bring more ethics into state government is admirable. One sometimes feels that the old saw, "the best legislature money can buy" contains too much truth. But then I am sure that the majority of the legislatures of either party are honorable people. Surely those will support clearer definitions of what is "ethical."

Sincerely,

James M. Leitnaker

Download the personal phones at each desk, state cell phones; check the comp/over time and the abuse of the state issued cars to agents and all staff.

Ethics Comments:

Many of your state workers will not respond. Nor can they sign their names to any type of letter to you. There is such a thing as suffering from retaliation and working in a hostile work environment.

Such a situation has occurred; and we the MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL UNIT, TBI were placed in a situation to isolate and harm an employee for 2 years. She left in June. We collaborated our stories and ganged up against her so that she would only look like she was the problem. There was nothing that could be used we just used the same situations she complained about. The supervisors, Bob Schlafly, Rich Camp, Jeff Puckett and Ed Jones could only turn her words around to harm her. They never wanted to help her because she told the truth. I am having a very hard time with this because we have harmed the hardest working, most dedicated and

As a long term state employee, ethics should be consistent, across the board policy for all with no action, by a public servant, that might be suspect by another. Why enact laws and policy if those in leadership do not choose to comply?

Respectfully,

A Concerned & Grateful Employee

State of Tennessee

Thursday, July 28, 2005; 2:25 PM

Yes, I'm 100% backing the Governor on taking all these bribes and consulting fees and everything else from these senators and legislators.

All of this is just bribes. These people who cannot obey the law need to get out. They need to do things for the state of Tennessee and not for their own pocketbook. Thank you.

You allow lobbying to take place and the results of those efforts is not representative of what the majority of citizen of the state want

Thursday, July 28, 2005; 1:56 PM

Phil, this is Ted Sanders in Franklin County. I met you at the new Franklin County High School building when you came down to visit us.

I certainly want to offer my comments on the concerns with the ethics of our government. I certainly support you in anything that you can do to make our government people that's voted in by the people more honest and sincere in our government.

You can't have questionable integrity when you're in the public's eye. You need to be of the highest integrity in government that you can be. I certainly support anything that you can do, or will do, in making this into a strict law.

I certainly thank you for offering me the opportunity to talk with you, and I will see you sometime when you're down in Franklin County. Bye, Phil.

Thursday, July 28, 2005; 9:56 AM

My name is Lou Alverides. I reside in Old Hickory, Tennessee. My number is 847-5851.

I'd like someone to get back to me. I read the front page today regarding the story on Lois DeBerry who is associated with House Speaker Naifeh and the money that she took illegally, and nothing is being done about it. As a citizen, I am concerned not only over our secular society but what has happened when these types of things are swept under the rug.

Naifeh should be censured for what he had to say. Some action should be taken against that woman for what she did.

Look at the example that it sets for our kids today when anybody can do anything and get off.

I'm really upset about this, and I'm with a group of gentlemen here at a business who feel the same way. We would like a response, and I would like someone to call me to let me know what the Governor is doing to get in touch with Naifeh or with the leaders of the House and get something done about this situation and res

Wednesday, July 27, 2005; 4:04 PM

Governor Bredesen, in order to improve ethics in the state, I would strongly request that you appoint John Turnbull to the state Supreme Court because this is a man of true ethics. Thank You.

Bill Hotz, 865-414-1717 a supporter of yours from way-back in Knoxville, Tennessee. Thank you.

Hi, Governor Bredesen. This is Jacklyn Coleman. I work in Clover Bottom. I was looking at the website, at your comments about ethics. It would be great if the state employees could get on this website and send their comments because a lot of state employees do not have computers at home. Have you considered that?

I will send my comments in writing. Thanks and thanks for reaching out to us. You're doing a great job.

Hi, Governor Bredesen. This is Jacklyn Coleman. I work in Clover Bottom. I was looking at the website, at your comments about ethics. It would be great if the state employees could get on this website and send their comments because a lot of state employees do not have computers at home. Have you

considered that?

I will send my comments in writing. Thanks and thanks for reaching out to us. You're doing a great job. Yes, I think your ethics laws in the state of Tennessee need to be strengthened, and I think

every senator or anyone in state government should have the highest integrity and think of the people instead of the party. That's what is happening nowadays they're thinking more of the party than the people of the state of Tennessee.

I think it's great if they have a religious background, and we have a right to worship as we please not as the ACLU would want us to worship. But, the highest ethics standing should be for every member of state government. That's the way I feel about it. Thank you, sir.

Wednesday, July 27, 2005; 1:31 PM

I think that the thing with the TennCare what Bredesen did I think it was wrong. That's my comment. He needs to check into it a little bit further on who loses and who has it.

Wednesday, July 27, 2005; 10:19 AM

Yes, you talk about ethics laws. My name is Carolyn Hankins, and I live in Pikeville, Tennessee. My house burned in July 2001. The laws that are supposed to protect people have not done a thing for us.

I've called your office. I've called the President. I've called everybody that's got power to do something.

That to me is not ethics laws.

Instead of letting the millionaires the billionaire insurance companies

All these children that's losing the health insurance

If they'd get regular pay like regular people

Have a nice day.

Wednesday, July 27, 2005; 10:21 AM

Yes, this is Carol Hankins. I just called; I didn't want you to think that I lied. My house burned on January 21st not July 2001. But, my thought still stands.

And also the Tennessee Insurance Commissioner is a joke. They don't ever investigate anything. They took the side with the big-shot insurance companies.

So, my stand on ethics government in Tennessee stinks.

Wednesday, July 27, 2005; 10:21 AM

Yes, this is Carol Hankins. I just called; I didn't want you to think that I lied. My house burned on January 21st not July 2001. But, my thought still stands.

And also the Tennessee Insurance Commissioner is a joke. They don't ever investigate anything. They took the side with the big-shot insurance companies.

So, my stand on ethics government in Tennessee stinks.

Wednesday, July 27, 2005; 9:06 AM

Governor Bredesen, my name is Dr. Lee H. Miller. 305 Cannon Gate Road Kingsport, Tennessee.



I believe that there should be far more discipline in the schools, and I also believe that schools should not begin until after Labor Day each year that schools that begin earlier are too warm.

The evenings do not contribute to study at home. Overall, just too warm a climate is not conducive to good study. Thank you. Bye-bye.

Tuesday, July 26, 2005; 1:13 PM

Yes, my name is Charles Bryan, and I'm in Nashville. My number is 292-2744. I wish somebody from the Governor's Office would call me.

I'm interested in knowing why these citizens' groups are meeting in Nashville but they aren't in other major cities in the state of Tennessee.

Tuesday, July 26, 2005; 1:01 PM

Governor Bredesen, this is Dr. Jackson out of Memphis, Tennessee. Interestingly enough in your email that you sent regarding feedback on government and ethics, 'government' is misspelled, and 'ethics' is misspelled twice. So, I guess the punch-line would be whoever is helping you can't spell 'ethics' and can't even spell 'government.' That's interesting to me. Hopefully, you guys can get that corrected. Bad grammar is not only bad for our students to be reading, but it's also pretty bad for the image, I think.

You can call me back at 901-481-0110. That's my cell. Thanks a lot.

Thursday, July 28, 2005; 11:44 PM

Yes, my name is Robert E. Howell, Pikeville, TN 37367. After being denied due process, competent legal representation, a fair trial, every human right we're supposedly guaranteed as being Americans, I had no other option but to get a 'Business Life' and started chugging the names---

The name of this organization is called 'F.A.T.A.L.' F.A.T.A.L. The staff from F.A.T.A. L. attempted assassination by the law. I believe it's self-explanatory.

This attempted police premeditated execution is documented, irrefutable, uncontested public knowledge. So, with the existence of an organization called this, there can't be no ethics in Tennessee. I was prosecuted as resisting arrest for living through a premeditated execution. The police officer's name is Bruce Campbell, Sr. The entire corrective judicial system as a whole seems to be an orchestrated conspiracy to keep this from being made public.

I believe it would help you in your attempts if you would just acknowledge all individuals with any hint of

improper activities should be

removed from the board. any individuals participating in such

behavior should be removed from

office.

I am very familiar with ethics violations in health care. There are physicians that are directly linked with National Health Care = NHC. (out of Murfreesboro). The referrals are circular, the physician refers to NHC, NHC rents from the MD's building (McMinnville) and is also reimbursed as a "director", given stock options in NHC, etc. Insurance companies, TennCare are all drained by this set up. The politicians have control over this problem, the Stark Law is not enforced. We all suffer and health care is going through the roof. The physicians also need unbiased 2nd opinions for patients surgical cases. Think if you asked a house painter if you needed a new paint job on your house....if you don't ...you need a new color. Same with orthopedic surgeries. (Hayes, Arms)

I have worked for NHC in the past and continue some contract work with them presently. I have 26 years experience as a PT and think I should not sit idle, but voice problems I have seen first hand. Also the patients are not given the res

i think ethics in the police department are most important. i see police breaking laws every day. how can one enforce something that they do not lead an example of themselves? for example, i don't think i have ever seen a cop stop at a red light. i see them turn on their lights and then turn them back off to get through. this is very wreckless. in my own experience, they also confinscate vehicles from wrecks, not letting the victims have them until huge fees are acquired at the impound. this is just not fair. i have a car being "held" by the police right now. and when they "release" it to me, the wrecker service says i have to pay for every day the police held it. does that even sound legal??? i am very disappointed in the legal system. i think the way to make government more ethical is to first make sure that the people in government understand that they will have to follow laws as well as citizens, if not more conservatively considering they are trying to enforce these laws.

A policy should be activated prohibiting councilmen and other state officials from purchasing land and businesses within the the district they represent. Profit received from cellular phone towers, land, and business purchases should be allocated towards the improvement of the neighborhoods (communities), instead of investing it into elegant businesses. The state officials tend to find financial success and live comfortable, while the people and the communities continue to sink into poverty. The communities do not even have sidewalks for our children to walk home safely or playgrounds to deter them from playing in the middle of the street. The churches and citizens of the community should not have to wash cars and sponsor other fundraisers in order to raise funds to improve our neighborhoods. If a policy is activated that forces elected state officials to give back to the community what their greedy bank account has taken away. In some instances the land etc. they purchased is not maintained causing the

Hold people responsible even with the laws we have presently. This includes politicians, sports personnel, and celebrities. Unless we maintain a standard, talk will continue to be our focus.

I believe that some specific recommendations should come from the committee that the public understands and can believe will happen. Something dramatic is called for. I understand that lobbyists serve a useful purpose, but some rules/laws must be put in place that stops the large amounts of money of special interests going into legislative coffers. Disclosure requirements should be easily accessible to the public.

ALL Legislature persons should be HONEST with all their dealings regardless of the person or the Lobbyist! All contributions of ANY nature given to any State Legislature person should be documented and made PUBLIC... each and every one! Any Legislature person who is caught, should be prosecuted and jailed! Any and all "questionable" ethical action by ANY Legislature person should be investigated...NO ACCEPTIONS!

John Ford has been a KNOWN liar for a long time! Finally, it took the FBI (not the TBI) to catch him "red-handed!"

Let's post the TEN COMMANDMENTS in every Legislature person's state office for their reference! Perhaps that will remind them of what is considered "Right and Wrong" by MOST (IF NOT ALL) Tennessee Citizens!

I have "little confidance" that our current elected officials have the PUBLIC'S interest ahead of their OWN SELF-INTEREST!

**STRONG and effective Ethics reform is needed IMMEDIATELY!**

I strongly feel anyone that violates the Ethics Law, should face prosecution and lose all pensions and benefits. This would definitely get their attention. This should be enforced even on the ones already under investigation.

Mandate and maintain one single standard of ethics for all...not double, triple, etc as it functions at present. Politicians & gov't officials are to be the example, not the laughing stock!

I think a audit quarterly will help.

Yes I believe government needs lots of works and corruption does exist in the courts , roads and agencies that fall short of the goals of its citizens.

less politics and more getting the job done right.
Are you aware Tennessee is endorsing the death sentence for elderly over 65? The paper work you file for TennCare states no Cancer treatment for women over this age. This is rendering a certain death sentence for these women. How old is your mother?
When filing to run for public office, have candidate declare that he or she will go to prison for ten years if convicted of a crime.
Looking for a better control on the crime high % in TN
take the lobbyist out of the Capital Building
term limitations
I have been involved with a local Character Counts! coalition for several years. Character Counts! was developed by the Josephson Institute, and promotes the "Six Pillars" (Trustworthines, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring & Citizenship). There are a number of coalitions in the state of Tennessee that would greatly appreciate the active support of the Governor in their efforts to improve the character of our young people, as well as our adult citizens. I have requested the Josephson Institute to send you information about Charcater Counts!, Pursuing Victory with Honor (sports), and Ethics in the Workplace. UT Extension is a strong supporter of the Character Counts! initiative. Please consider promoting these programs statewide.
those individuals who violated the ethics rules either knowingly or otherwise should be dismissed immediately as well as anyone who agreed with they did .the next time you visit East Tennessee in Sevier county why not look me up and go for a drive in the country around Sevier county.865-654-1754 thank you
those individuals who violated the ethics rules either knowingly or otherwise should be dismissed immediately as well as anyone who agreed with they did .the next time you visit East Tennessee in Sevier county why not look me up and go for a drive in the country around Sevier county.865-654-1754 thank you
Vote your convictions and not fall for what everyone else says or what they promise you. Think about the people you represent and how you can help them.
Require complete disclosure on all lobbyists--expenses, income, who employs whom.
Remove legislators under indictment until after trial
Discontinue frivalous expenses like Highway parol chauffeurs for House and Senate leaders.
Keep investigating TNCare enrollees to insure all on rolls aree treuely eligible.
enforce the rules for all,not just select...justify punishment for violations
punish the offender of violations and not the victim!!!!
had harassment at work and guilty was not punished to the extent of policy violations per the warden and commissioner WHITE!!the punishment was like a slap in the face that said the guilty could do as he pleases and get away with it !!!
At the Memphis Shelby County Election Commission Refuse to give potenital candidates qualifying patition for public office unless the candidate revill the office they are seeking by signing a ledeger. This practice appear to be a violation of my rights as a candidate for public office since 1986,and never elected; Yet it was a victory for me in building and learning about the importants of integrity and character. When you representing anyone other then yourself and being rackless of yourself can have a dominal effect on anyone associated with you and this committee can only be the quality assurance task force the public needs.GREAT START!!!
Thank You,
keyword:
Mary Taylor Shelby
Thank you for picking up the mantle for changes to our legislatures ethics, or more precisely, lack of ethics. New rules have long been needed to stem the mental rot hibernating in our legislature. Too much cronyism and under-the-tableness goes on currently, making the average citizen aware that their vote

counts for nil as long as their "elected" representatives can line their pockets by toadying to big "organizations".

One of the main things that needs looking at, I feel, is the length of time some of these "legislators" have been in office. I've heard the claim that cutting short a legislator's time in office will water down the effectiveness of his abilities as a legislator. On the other hand, leaving the same legislator in office for more than one term absolutely insures that he/she is contaminated by the pollution created by the legislator/lobbyist relationship on the hill. I would sincerely recommend that the group you pick to look into this problem also investigate terminating the "lifetime tenure"

Governor Bredesen must resign to show any real support for ethics.

Ethics reform is long overdue. The five recently arrested are not the only ones with their hands out.

Lobbyist should not be allowed on capital hill. The capital is a place for business for the Tennessee people. Not for just the few.

Please clean-up this mess. Tennessee should not have a "for sale" sign in its front yard.

I think investigations into ethics should not be limited to elected officials, they should be expanded to appointed officials also. These appointed officials can have profound influence on the average citizen, yet the citizens have no way to eliminate corrupt or incompetent officials. In Memphis, I am specifically referring to the Land Use Control Board possibly being "bribed" or "accepting favors" from developers. The board is comprised of developers, realtors, bankers and a few "average Joe" citizens. I am not saying that the developers, realtors, or bankers are the corrupt ones, (even though it is obvious that they will vote pro-development) it just would not take much to "persuade" one average Joe board member to vote in favor of the developer in order to gain the required majority vote. Development in the Memphis/Shelby County area is rampant. Citizens have written thousands of letters objecting to certain developments; and the Office of Planning and Development has not recommended certain development

It seems very few people want to take responsibility for their actions, especially the younger people. Most do not think ahead of the consequences of their actions. This would be a better world for all if we accept and take responsibility for our own actions and not put the blame elsewhere.

As a retired military member (USAF Security Police) and I have been in the security field for 30+ years. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and 15 hours towards a Master of Science degree in the same field. I feel that Operation Tennessee Waltz would not have occurred if stronger ethics laws were BOTH in place (codified) AND ENFORCED! Laws minus enforcement do absolutely no good.

Blaming the FBI for setting up the operation and "entrapping" people is like saying a farmer is guilty of animal abuse by setting up a trap and catching the fox before it got to the hen house.

It is obvious that these people feel that it's ok to break the law because I'm not going to get caught. And when they got caught, they brazenly attempt to fault the government for spending "our tax dollars" to set the operation up. How ludicrous! That's no defense for their own dishonesty and whining because they WERE caught. So instead of accepting responsibility for doing something wrong...they choose to attempt

Our county government is corrupt (Benton County).

By having everyone on the same page when it comes to providing information to concerned citizens. I have been told 'everything' when it comes to my daughter's Tenn Care coverage. I was told that she would have health coverage through her appeal. "WELL, SHE DOESN'T" Tenn Care didn't even pay for her nutrition last month. Now she has no medications, either and needs treatments. Her muscles are contracting and she is jerking continuously. She is in pain. How can a government turn people like Shannon away. I've heard in Florida they starve their helpless. About the same thing, isn't it?

the commissioner of the TDOC needs to re-evaluate the handling of the last 15 to 20 harassment and sexual harassment cases in the dept. of corrections!!!!!!

Please call the legislature back into session before the end of 2005 and be sure to specifically address reforms for lobbyists.

I don't have any specific suggestions, I just know that something needs to be done to reform the laws and policies in all four areas.

I think there must be a citizen ethics committee because if the politicians and lobbyists are allowed to

determine their own ethical standards (as they have done all along) it will be self-serving and unfair to the voting public.
Persons employed in Government Service work who are guilty of violating Ethics Rules should not receive pensions.
After reading news articles concerning folks on the ethics committee, I wonder if anyone knows what Ethics is about?
A. Do away with lobbyist.
B. When presenting a bill, it should include a lists of businesses whose owners should exclude themselves from voting on that bill.
C. I work for the state. We have had folks give us small gifts that we have returned to avoid even the hint of improper conduct. What is with our elected officials? Remove temptation from their midst. Please.
I think anyone who takes a \$1.00 "donation" from any lobbyist, or even gifts, should permanently loose thier position in the governmenal body immediately. People in a position of making decisions regarding the award of contracts should not accept a penny from lobbyists. A strong response, a "no tolerance policy" would strengthen the resolve of honest people and keep honest people honest.
I also know of TennCare abuse and fraud which I have personally reported that have gone uninvestigated. I also know from personal experience how money is being spent needlessly (millions of dollars) for outside contractors when the State employs a staff of contract writers who sit around all day. The contractors are enlisted to look over the contracts to see if they are adequate between TennCare and the Medical Providers contracted by TennCare. If state employees who are employed for the specific reason to develop contracts are not doing their jobs, they should be replaced by people who are capable of performing those
Tighter controls on outside business. If they are in office, they cannot engage in an outside buisness due to ethical reasons.
as a state employee I use to be able to enjoy my job by helping the public. Now our division doesn't care about if we are able to help the public just how many people contact our office. It's all about the numbers not helping the public. I am so unhappy with my job now that we can't spend the time needed to help the public. Our division can but our division can't no more.
i have had payroll issues that took a week to get resolved
Have more controls from non-partisan committees.Do not let people police themselves so much. Make it very clear that they cannot
accept any money or favors for anything. I would never let anyone
pay me off for anything. They need to be honest, period, as elected officials in which we place our trust.
First, it is sad and alarming that we are havingthis discussion. The Ford family have long thought themselves above the law.
Second, I find it appalling that our legislators tried to hide their collective heads in the sand when this info first came to light and more or less "circled the wagons" around one of their own. It gave the impression and, probably rightly so, that many of their dealings were less than upright.
I suggest the following:
Penalties : 1. Loss of voting power and salary while investigation is underway for misconduct (salary can reimbursed retroactively, if cleared of charges). 2. Immediate removal from office on conviction of misconduct of any type. 3. Loss of retirement benefits and all state provided benefits if convicted.
Lobbying activities : 1. A person cannot serve 2 masters. Since the legislature is elected by the people, they need to serve the people. I recommend that lobbying activities be subject to "sunshine" style scrutiny. Perhaps a news reporter should be present

I feel that most laws are made for the person/persons that pass them. The people as a whole are not taken into consideration. I have come to realize that most laws have a loop hole or some way around them. If laws were to be made and enforced fairly, it would be good thing.

When you have to create laws to control behavior, ethics has failed. Ethics is said to be "the obedience to the unenforceable." What is needed is the creation of an ethical culture within state government. Creating this culture starts at the top with the Governor who always has to keep ethics front and center. Compliance efforts will never, in the end, eliminate unethical behavior. They only work after the fact, but unethical people always invent a new way to play the game.

While I am not well versed on current ethics laws I think common sense on the part of the elected officials should prevail. When elected they are placed in a position of trust and should not take that lightly or think that laws do not apply to them because of their position. The citizens of Tennessee are the ones who elected them and the same can remove them. After all, there are rules and regulations that one is expected to follow in order to keep a job.

The ethics laws should be very clearly written with no room for misinterpretation.

Candidates should be required to review and acknowledge ethics laws and policies when seeking office. They should keep this information foremost in their mind and actions when elected.

There needs to be ongoing undercover sting operations in order to catch persons guilty of ethics violations. It may take a while to weed out the unethical ones. However, it will make those in positions of trust realize that they run the risk of being caught. Also, the penalty, once

Our state election commission and our caucuses do a pretty fair job of educating candidates regarding contributions during campaigns. It is very difficult to control contributions in multi-county campaigns (ticket sales by unknown supporters, etc.), but the candidate is certainly still responsible. Maybe it should be the law that a treasurer (not the candidate) should be maintained at all times. All contributions should be given to, reported and deposited by the treasurer. A "No money handled by the candidate or elected official" rule would be tough and cumbersome, but it may be necessary. Perhaps in large races, the treasurer may need to be a CPA or attorney. 'Just a thought.

Certainly, we must have a "come to Jesus" meeting with our elected

officials (particularly legislators or anyone in a position of letting contracts) on a regular basis regarding allowing undue influence by special interest reps.

I don't think Tennessee is a "den of iniquity". Our state and a few unfortunate souls were targeted fo

Our state election commission and our caucuses do a pretty fair job of educating candidates regarding contributions during campaigns. It is very difficult to control contributions in multi-county campaigns (ticket sales by unknown supporters, etc.), but the candidate is certainly still responsible. Maybe it should be the law that a treasurer (not the candidate) should be maintained at all times. All contributions should be given to, reported and deposited by the treasurer. A "No money handled by the candidate or elected official" rule would be tough and cumbersome, but it may be necessary. Perhaps in large races, the treasurer may need to be a CPA or attorney. 'Just a thought.

Certainly, we must have a "come to Jesus" meeting with our elected

officials (particularly legislators or anyone in a position of letting contracts) on a regular basis regarding allowing undue influence by special interest reps.

I don't think Tennessee is a "den of iniquity". Our state and a few unfortunate souls were targeted fo  
be firm, and consisting

Start with a simple definition of ETHICS. Write it very simply and so clearly so that no one can misunderstand what it means.

Rethink the constitution and allow an income tax.

Hold the elected officials accountable and enforce the laws to the full extent of the law and not coddle

these officials. I am in the military and I cannot do what the average american does because I am in the military. Thank You & God Bless TN Gov.

I am responding to the governor's e-mail request for input on ethics. Ethics reform is at least desired, if not necessary, in state government. In my experience as a TDEC employee during several administrations, the mistakes most likely to negatively impact citizens of the state are perpetuated by lobbying of influential entities (consultants, businesses, and state and federal government contractors) with TDEC staff at the level of the division directors, commissioner's office or the governor's planning office. Division directors and others with leadership roles in TDEC seem reluctant to oppose some bad ideas, proposals and projects because:

1) They do not themselves have the technical expertise to properly evaluate the environmental or public health consequences, and sometimes do not know whether their staff has this expertise or not.

2. They do not have civil service protection, and are reluctant to jeopardize their jobs.

3. They have many ties to friends, colleagues, and former co-workers built up ov

By holding people accountable for their corrupted ways. This is important and sets examples all over.

That's a tough one b/c the legislators/lobbists whom the laws and policies will govern/effect are the very ones I, as a member of the public, do not trust in the first place. I don't see how I can trust them to write/sponsor/support meaningful ethics legislation and policies. If I am wrong and such can be made permanent policy or state law, there must be no exceptions. Legislators & lobbyists are intelligent people and they know when they are doing something they should not be doing - further, just like Oxley-Sorbane, even if they were unaware a subordinate did something outside the newly established parameters, the lawmaker/lobbyist is responsible -no claiming "I didn't know so I'm not guilty." The ball stops with them - they are accountable.

Governor Bredesen, I have supported you in each run for office you have made. I believe in you, your knowledge, experience, intellect, et al, and I will support whatever reforms you back. You are the only politician in which I have any faith.

God bless you for

I have been a resident of Tennessee and a government employee for over 27 years. It is a shame that people from out of state and illegal immigrants can reap the benefits of TennCare. My child, that was born and raised in this great state of Tennessee can no longer benefit from TennCare. I feel that in order to have TennCare, which is supported by the Tennessee taxpayers you should be a resident in this state for a certain lenght of time. The people who suffer the most are the long standing tax paying residents of Tennessee, and their families, while every day I see new illegal immigrants come into our health department from Mexico and other countries, ready at any time to have their babies in this state just so they can have the benefits that our children and our parents can not have. Now, someone please tell me where I went wrong and why this TennCare reform is so right. Tell me where the ethics are in this???

Please respond to my e-mail!

Sincerely,

Sharon Myers

Hamblen County Health Department

Thanks for soliciting opinions concerning our state ethics. It is my opinion that ethics must be guided by morals. Principals and standards must have a source. Can our source be substituted with a list rules? What is our source for determining appropriate "ethical" behavior? This subject is open to much scrutiny because it seems that our moral codes conflict and/or want to include a multiplicity of ideals. To me, there is right and there is wrong behavior. What are we teaching our children in our schools? Recently, I learned of individuals who accepted "gifts" or meals from competing interests. Isn't that considered to be unethical? Employees of the state should not be "up for sale." We have specified duties to perform and we must be cognizant that there are some who want to sway our opinions and judgments with superficial

<p>gratification without regard to the demise of the causes and people we are called to serve.</p>
<p>I would challenge state senators and representatives to spend tax dollars as if it were their own money. State government needs to operate more like private business and watch every dollar spent. I think Governor Bredesen has done a good job trying to change some attitudes in the State legislature. I also think the Governor should have more of a hand in setting the agenda for each legislative session. Looking at the laws passed in the last session leaves a lot to be desired (smallmouth bass etc). The present leadership - Naifeh and Wilder - have demonstrated to me that they are not true leaders, hence all the ethical problems. We need to get rid of the buddy system in the state legislature immediately. Most private companies have codes of ethical business conduct, the government needs to have codes of ethical governmental conduct with strict disciplinary penalties.</p>
<p>Make the elected officials deliver what they promised in their campaign promises. Like the promise to save TennCare. That little trick was one thing that got someone elected to office. A lot of us voters are very upset with our decision to put this official in office. I thought he was supposed to work for the good of the people not against.</p>
<p>Several ideas:</p> <p>Government must be open to the public, and it needs to be run by men and women who adhere to the laws and guidelines that ensure the free flow of ideas. When public officials make decisions, cast votes or debate important issues, they must do those things in the open. Open government means using available technologies to reach out to the public and bring citizens into government; broadcasting meetings, providing public records on the Internet, etc.</p> <p>Work on campaign finance reform that will help bring government back to the people by reducing the influence of wealthy special interests, encouraging campaigns to seek funding from a broader base of small contributors.</p> <p>Government officials must act in the public's best interest, not for their own personal benefit or for the benefit of powerful and influential special interest. Government must operate in the sunshine and it is critical to have laws and rules that prevent government officials from engaging in unethical behavior.</p> <p>A fre</p>
<p>I think most elected officials start out with good intentions. But oftentimes with power comes dishonesty. Lobbying needs to be cut out altogether in my opinion. A citizen watchdog group of everyday people [no political ties] needs to be asked to volunteer or create positions for this purpose to keep our elected officials honest. Any violation of public trust should merit automatic removal from office, if founded.</p>
<p>I think most elected officials start out with good intentions. But oftentimes with power comes dishonesty. Lobbying needs to be cut out altogether in my opinion. A citizen watchdog group of everyday people [no political ties] needs to be asked to volunteer or create positions for this purpose to keep our elected officials honest. Any violation of public trust should merit automatic removal from office, if founded.</p>
<p>Ethics have to begin with caring. I've lived in TN for one year now and have found absolutely no quality or caring in any process, rather than be in people's private or public life and especially in the workplace. I believe being new to the state gave me a different view of situations happening each day. People with good ethics care and/or are concerned with things happening around them and they genuinely want to help others. Most Tennesseans I've met thus far are missing this very vital piece. It is unfortunate that new ethics laws will not change attitudes and shape caring people overnight. We may be looking at years down the road for real change because of the poor mentality of individuals in this state. Nobody seems to want to step up and deal with real issues that hurt us as citizens of this great state. You don't see trailblazers in your churches and you certainly don't see them in the workplace. How can ethics laws be stronger? - try enforcing the ones already on the books. What good are new ones?</p>
<p>What chance of ethical reform is possible when the Speaker Naifeh (sic) describes admitted bribe-taker DeBerry as "a person of integrity"!!!! The Republican party is the first to ask for Newton's resignation and the Democrats defend DeBerry!!</p>
<p>Bredesen Ethics are unethical.</p>
<p>Rep. Favors Says Officials Going Overboard On Ethics Issue</p>



posted August 2, 2005

\*\*\*\*\*

It is like Law students cheating in exam in their Ethics Course.

Rep. JoAnne Favors

Rep. JoAnne Favors said state officials are going "overboard" on the issue of ethics in government.

Rep. Favors, who has been named to serve on a state ethics commission, said, "We already have a law that you're not supposed to take a bribe. That's why they arrested some folk."

She said of the ethics scramble since the FBI's Tennessee Waltz sting, "I think we are overreacting."

She said of the ethics panel, "I don't see a need for it even though I'm on it."

Rep. Favors said she has found Nashville lobbyists to be "brilliant people" that legislators can learn from.

She said, "Some of the lobbyists are my friends. You see them in the evening, and you have dinner with them because your family's not there."

Rep. Favors said she had requested an opinion on her serving as a health care consul

I think that it would be of benefit to the state to set up an Ethics Awareness Program. In checking the internet for related topics on "Ethics" I received 1,273,334 hits. It is hard to believe that we have so much information regarding right vs wrong. The Golden Rule, "Do on to other as you would have them do on to you is an ethical standard that could be blended with another ethical standard, "The Utilitarian Principal". The state has recently experienced the Utilitarian Principal in the TnCare disenrollment process. The government has acted in a way that results in the greatest good for the greatest number. Tennessee citizens are but a lengthened shadow of the morality of the persons in charge. Some of our lawmakers are now in the middle of a major scandal. All law makers are in a position to behave ethically or unethically and the law is the lowest common denominator of acceptable behavior. According to George May there are six basic guidelines for ethical business operations. 1. Law 2. Rules and Pr

FIRST - You never let the Fox watch the Chicken Coop, i.e., You DO NOT let the people, for whom the ethics guidelines are intended, create their own guidelines. As you could see in the last "So called" REFORM debacle in the legislature - the ones who eventually were indicted were the main ones against the reform. One "Loose Cannon" in particular was "Allowed" to raise havoc and create problems throughout his tenure in the Senate. He should have been put out the first time he had a dispute with the State Trooper.

AS a citizen, my trust in the ethics committee is undermined by virtue of the fact you have members of the group connected with questionable activities. Why have a committee on ethics when the members themselves have been called into question. It's as if they are beyond accountability since they are a part of the group.

I cannot believe the Ford family is getting away with their scandal. And the fact that Jimmy Nafey(sp?) sees absolutely no problem with any governmental workers remaining in their positions once they have been called into question. The other 49 states must be sitting back and laughing at our state and the way we CHOOSE to run our political structure!!!

It is amazing that we can have such an 'ethical' Governor (though I know he plays his own angles too) and it amazes me at how hard he seems to work at it; how much fluff he is willing to endure from some citizens groups. I am a candidate and I have never taken a bribe or even a contribution. I'm a Democrat and I will seek contributions next January and if elected I will seek to do things the right way, with new modes built by our state employees rather than pork contractors, and I'm the kind of guy with enough visible integrity to get away with it. It has not been easy for anyone to help me because of what some

really bad parameters or misconceptions and events have been in my life, at juxtaposition to what my situation needs to be for optimum success. In order for Phil & Andrea to help me I think they need to start with the right info about me and I'd start that ball rolling with the fact that I am not nor have I ever been "gay". I'm not one in the closet who needs to come out, no matter what someone mi

I don't beleive the problem is the laws, but how they are being enforced. When a body is allowed to enforce laws on itself, it will look for "gray areas". Why not let a group outside that body review all cases that pertain to ethics, such as appointed citizens group?

An independant group sounds like the way to go.

Disolve travel and expense forms and immediate inact a travel expense card. Card should be similiar to the food stamp issuance to meet federal IRS guidelines. Travel arrangements should be outsourced to four (4) travel agencies; north,south,east,west. The travel agency invoices the state and must include a comment section as to why the trip was necessary. If a person, similiar to Mr. Ford, doesn't have ethics nothing you will do can make them get it. There are however laws which should be strictly enforced and not ignored. If you are quilty you loose alllllll employment priviliges including retirement. An independent audit committee (made up of local residents educated/retired in accounting functions) should be done per quarter and the reports published. Let the voters see what their candidates are doing.

MORE OPERATIONS LIKE "TN WALTZ" THE FORDS HAVE BEEN BREAKING THE LAW FOR YEARS. ANY TIME SOMEONE CHALLANGES THEM THEY PLAY THE RACE CARD. MEMPHIS AND THE ST OF TN WILL BE BETTER WITH HIM BEHIND BARS.

I had left a message on the call-in line, and sent in the questionnaire, but needed more room. Sir, DCS is overflowing with ethical violations, but nobody wants to really investigate this department, because it would mean digging up far too many skeletons which might embarrass too many political appointees and their friends in government. This department needs to be investigated, but not by the State of TN. This agency needs to be investigated by an outside source that will not have any conflict of interest issues. If the people of the state of TN knew what goes on here in this agency, they would be sick. Just ask Foster Parents who have stopped fostering because of the way this agency is run. And I'm not just talking about the way the foster care cases and juvenile justice cases are handled, either. I am talking about the way workers are abused by their supervisors and they way we get blamed for everything that goes wrong, when we are just cannon fodder with no power to do anything but what we are told to do.

From: Letha Sanford <Letha.Sanford@state.tn.us>

To: Phil.Bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/25/2005 11:35:46 AM

Subject: Re: A Message from the Governor requesting ethics comments

Hi Governor,

I believe you have already started trying to put ethics back in state government, when you appointed a advisory panel. Let's see what ideas they have first. and with God's help this too will pass!! Remember, there are good, and bad people in this world, and you can only encourage people to do right, and pray and hope they will. Stop trying to strengthen laws, just enforce the laws we already have!!

Have a nice Day!!

From: Joy Bomar <Joy.Bomar@state.tn.us>

To: Phil.Bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 8/2/2005 4:39:37 PM

Subject: Re: A Message from the Governor requesting ethics comments

Dear Governor Bredesen:

Thank you for your note regarding ethical standards and for seeking our comments on earning the citizens' trust.

When I began thinking on what we, as state, county and municipal employees can do to further that trust, I was struck with trying to evaluate what I perceived to be the general public opinion of public servants. Quite frankly, I like the phrase "public servant", because that is what I think we are, ultimately. That is what we are paid to do, and for many of us, that is why we are here.

So, I talked with several of my colleagues and asked the question, "What do you think is the problem with the perception of civil servants and/or politicians serving the public?" The most frequent and the most immediate answer from those surveyed, was a collective "sense of entitlement mentality." Wh

From: Craig Laman <head@charterbn.com>

To: Phil.Bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/28/2005 9:11:00 AM

Subject: Continue on ethics request feedback

July 28, 2005

Thank you Governor Bredesen for the opportunity to respond to your inquiry.

I have 800 plus employees and deal with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Division of Employment Security often. Our companies (me personally) take stringent action on all claims filed.

Our companies do not lay off employees. The majority of terminations are because an employee is not following state/federal-mandated rules.

Example 1: Not taking care of a patient properly is not considered work related misconduct by TDLWD-Division of Employment Security.

Example 2: No call/no show for several days is not considered work-related misconduct by TDLWD-Division of Employment Security.

The hearing officers at Humboldt have taken my objections personally and know that I have filed complaints for their biased decis

From: Catherine Jones <Catherine.Jones@state.tn.us> To: Phil.Bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/26/2005 9:50:48 AM

Subject: Re: A Message from the Governor requesting ethics comments

Good Morning Governor Bredesen,

Thank you for your e-mail. After Tennessee Waltz hit the media, I thought to myself, "if I were the Governor, I'd call a meeting with all of the legislators and give them 60 days to confess to any unethical activities they are involved in, to avoid any mass publicity or further arrests at this time." They owe you that much Governor Bredesen. Once I get this law degree, I want to work directly for you and focus my efforts on public service. You are right, it is critical that public officials exercise the highest ethical standards, particularly during the current state of affairs in our country and the world for that matter. It's

heart-breaking that local people cannot do what is right, particularly when everyone knows who they are and some of what they are doing.

Thank yo

From: Deborah Molder <Deborah.Molder@state.tn.us>

To: Phil.Bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 8/1/2005 10:47:14 AM

Subject: Re: A Message from the Governor requesting ethics comments

I guess I am a little late to respond to the Ethics topic.....But I would like to commend you and your staff on the TNCARE crisis. You all did not cause the problem, but are in charge of cleaning it up. You can't please everyone.

I am a nurse in the Dept of Health, and deal with a lot of people that are being cut from TNCARE. I guess medication cuts and coverage is what I hear a lot about.

While I applaud the bell-ringers to defend their cause, I have not seen any solutions they have come up with that are workable.

Just wanted to let you know ,since I am a fellow state employee, I think you all are doing the best you can.

thanks

Deborah K.Molder, BSW, R.N.

Maternal and Child Health Director

South Central Regional Health Dept.

1216 Trotwood Avenue

Columbia, Tenn.38401

(931) 380-2532,ext

From: Betty Patton <Betty.Patton@state.tn.us>

To: Phil.Bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/28/2005 11:14:23 AM

Subject: Re: A Message from the Governor requesting ethics comments

Dear Governor Bredesen:

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my sentiments on this subject. Second, I would hope that the Ethics Committee is made up of people who truly are in a position to judge what is best ethically. This is a hard task, but thankfully there are some legislators who represent us effectively, honestly and with commitment. If there are questions regarding any of the members' behaviors with lobbyists, please find a way to remove them from the Committee.

Next, the task at hand is huge. You are so right that our confidence is shaken, and we are wondering if we can trust anyone. My own answer to that is a definite yes. Some can be trusted. Let the record show

that some among the House and Senate really are in their positions to help, to fight for our rights and to ass

I am hoping that more screening will be done in the future of elected officials as well as State Employees to insure the integrity of our Government. It is a really bad example for our tax-paying citizens and also encourages criminals to do wrong because they don't respect our Government. I know correcting the problem will be expensive but worth it in the long run. Thanks from a loyal supporter and a hard working State Employee, Elizabeth Lewis

Elizabeth.Lewis@state.tn.us

Dear Governor Bredesen,

Thank you so much for your request for feedback and the opportunity to share our comments and experience on ethics with regard to sexual as well as other forms of harassment in state employment settings.

I am an employee of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (35.5 Years) and during this time have crafted and authored the Sexual Harassment, Racial Harassment and other policies under Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. These policies along with corresponding Complaint Procedures have stood since their inception or through revisions or amendments, and consistently passed muster or the critical evaluations of the Tennessee State Attorney General Office, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Department of Justice as well as U.S. District Courts.

Also, these policies and procedures have been instrumental in allowing and assisting TDOT to investigate, mediate and resolve many issues and complaints before they be

The response is not fast enough, and not severe enough, for they are supposed to be doing the people's voice not to feather their own POCKET at our expense. You for the time in this office have not corrected our illegal alien drivers license acquisition.

This irritates me to no end and it is detrimental to our National Security. Are you ever going to correct this and stop this flood?

Governor Bredesen:

As a recent graduate of law school, with a firm understanding of professional ethical standards, I am of the opinion that ethics reform in Tennessee should be of the utmost priority. From my experience, discipline (and in this case, ethics) is best learned through education. Perhaps, a greater abundance of required ethics courses would help improve the lacking ethical standards here in Tennessee. Further, harsher and mandatory penalties (such as removal from office) would also be a valuable deterrent to ethical violations. However, for this to be implemented effectively, a "true" bipartisan review board is essential. Ethics has no room for playing politics. I hope this insight is helpful. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

George W. Waggoner, III

Ethical considerations are a personal choice. State employees who are not held accountable will break the law until they are caught. The sad part is they are turned in for political reasons not for ethical reasons. State employees can break the law and massage the system to support this behavior with favors.

Dear Governor Bredesen:

I am writing this letter in response to your request of feedback on ethical standards from the public servants of Tennessee.

As a public servant of this great state, you shame me. You talk of ethics then cut medical insurance off of 230,000 of your fellow Tennesseans. Tennesseans that you were voted in to serve. How ethical is that, I

ask you?

You and your legislative body are in short, killing some of these people. I dare you and the legislators to sit in any Human Services Office or listen to the phone calls that come in daily, and say that what you are doing to some of these people is ethical.

Explain to me, sir, why cervical and breast cancers are more qualified for medical help and attention than lung cancer, kidney cancer, or heart disease? Or how a person on dialysis could expect to hold down a job to make enough money for the cost of private health insurance? How long do you think, Governor Bredesen, will it take a person on dialysis to die without their treatment?

Why were there no rank and file (non executive level) employees included in this advisory group on ethics?

Dear Governor Bredesen,

Thank you so much for your request for feedback and the opportunity to share our comments and experiences on ethics with regard to sexual as well as other forms of harassment in state employment settings.

I am an employee of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (35.5 Years) and during this time have crafted and authored the Sexual Harassment, Racial Harassment and other policies under Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. These policies along with corresponding Complaint Procedures have stood since their inception or through revisions or amendments, and consistently passed muster or the critical evaluations of the Tennessee State Attorney General Office, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Department of Justice as well as U.S. District Courts.

Also, these policies and procedures have been instrumental in allowing and assisting TDOT to investigate, mediate and resolve many issues and complaints before they

I spent 25 years as a newspaper reporter, editor and political columnist, 8 years as press secretary to Governor Lamar Alexander, and as a charter member and former chairman of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance.

First, we need laws to expose those who'd violate our high standards and then remove them from office or prevent their re-election or reappointment.

On campaign finance, more attention and restrictions should be placed on how campaign funds are used. Consideration should be given to preventing officeholders from keeping excessive funds in their campaign accounts after an election.

In establishing the Registry of Election Finance, the Legislature purposely left it without proper authority or tools to administer and enforce its responsibility for campaign finance disclosure, conflicts of interest and lobbying. Still, the board has made some progress in providing the public with more disclosure. Except in rare circumstances, the media hasn't been much help in keeping the public informed o

Governor Bredesen,

Regarding ethics:

Just for the record, I hear from TennCare recipients every day, but I also see John G. Taxpayer barely hanging on by his finger nails, trying to fund this program, and I'm behind you 200+%, someone had to step up to the plate and represent all the people working and playing by the rules and not just one group of people...(You'll probably guess, I'm a 5-year state employee, working for the Dept of Human Resources, after leaving the private sector, Murray, Inc. after 28 years.)

First, we need to define ethical behavior. What may be unethical to me, may not be to someone else. The end result being, we lack self discipline, and it's becoming increasingly hard for the majority of the population to separate what is right, and what is wrong in our own behavior. The old cliché comes to

mind, "the faults I find in myself are more deplorable when I see them in someone else." Our jails are becoming full of people thinking this.

All walks of people rationalize their behavior.

Thanks for giving state employees the opportunity to communicate with you in this open forum. This letter is unsigned, because most of us as employees fear the loss of our livelihood by bringing to your attention issues that we have with some of your upper level staff at department level.

Is it lawful to travel in a state owned vehicle 420 miles for a haircut and beard clipping? Fuel at \$2.25 per gallon! What's the justification for issuing SUVs to staff that won't go off road? Why are employees subjected to the abuse of being pulled off work task to refuel and wash an executive vehicle daily?

Having been in state service in excess of 20 years, I've never seen "personal servant" in any job performance plan or Department of Personnel Manual. Should career employees be required to work under conditions that cause them to fear reporting to work, not knowing if the department head is hung over from a drunken reception the night before?

Should staff be called at 8 to 8:30PM, to drive from their residence b

GROVER PORTER 1

Dear Governor Bredesen:

I would have preferred to communicate my recommendations regarding ways to assure ethical conduct by elected officials in Tennessee government directly to your "Ethics Advisory Panel," but this may not be practical since there is no "Town Hall" meeting scheduled for the Nashville area.

Therefore, I'm including my major recommendations in the enclosed copy of my article ("How can Ethical Conduct by Elected Officials be Assured in Tennessee?"). I would appreciate you distributing a copy of my recommendations to all members of your "Ethics Advisory Panel" for their consideration.

Your acknowledgement of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Grover L. Porter, PhD, CPA

ENCLOSURE

GROVER PORTER 2

How Can Ethical Conduct by Elected Officials be Assured in Tennessee?

By Grover L. Porter, PhD, CPA

"Power corrupts those who wield it, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

-Lord Acton

The news media is doing a great job reporting unethical and illegal conduct by Tennessee politicians. This article goes beyond reporting the ethical quagmire in Tennessee. This article recommends ways to assure ethical conduct by elected officials in Tennessee.

A plethora of ethics proposals have been presented and additional ethics proposals may be presented by individual legislators and two separate panels--the ethics committee created by the Legislature and the ethics advisory panel created by Gov. Phil Bredesen. My more than 40-years ethics experience researching, teaching, writing and serving on professional ethics committees, however, suggest that the best ways to assure ethical conduct by elected officials in Tennessee include:

Ethics Education. Children come into this world as ethical beings

GROVER PORTER 3

Transparency in Government. The sun should shine on all state government activities. The best ways to achieve this objective include:

- No secret meetings by legislators,
- Require all legislative votes to be for the record,
- Full financial disclosure by legislators and lobbyists,
- Open legislators' personnel records to the public.

Independent Ethics Commission. The ethics committees in the Legislature appear reluctant to investigate fellow members. For example, a letter I received from the legal counsel for the Senate Ethics Committee regarding an ethics complaint I filed stated: "We are of the opinion that the Ethics Committee does not have the authority to act upon your complaint at this time because it does not comply with the requirements of Rule 85."

In order to assure ethics complaints are promptly acted upon, the General Assembly should pass and Gov. Bredesen should approve legislation creating an Independent Ethics Commission. An appropriate Commission membership could be

GROVER PORTER 4 -END

Conclusions. I encourage Tennesseans to let the Governor's ethics advisory panel, the Legislature's ethics committee, your state senator, your state representative and these power brokers know that you are fed up with corruption in Tennessee government:

Gov. Phil Bredesen ([phil.bredesen@state.tn.us](mailto:phil.bredesen@state.tn.us));

Lt. Gov. John Wilder, ([lt.gov.john.wilder@legislature.state.tn.us](mailto:lt.gov.john.wilder@legislature.state.tn.us));

House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, ([speaker.jimmy.naifeh@legislature.state.tn.us](mailto:speaker.jimmy.naifeh@legislature.state.tn.us)).

These leaders have the power to encourage honest legislators during the next session of the General Assembly to support the ethics legislation necessary to clean up unethical and illegal conduct on Capitol Hill.

"How long, Lord, How long," as the late Gov. Frank Clement was fond of saying, before there is ethical government in Tennessee?

Grover L. Porter, PhD, CPA, is a professor of accounting at Tennessee State University. Dr. Porter has served on ethics committees for several professional organizations, including the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants.

State government must enjoy the trust of the governed in order to make major accomplishments. I have seen administrations who did not have this trust, and they accomplished very little. Convene all your cabinet officers and make crystal clear your policy, if you have not already. Let them know you expect them to do the same with those they supervise.

Show ethics in all areas of government. Such as illegal means not doing right. So how can Tennessee give drivers license to illegal aliens and expect to be a law abiding government and expect its workers to do better than they are being taught!!!!

I think the word "reform" implies the whole system is corrupt, and I do not believe it is. I think many people feel as I do, that any body of people, be it business, political, evangelical, etc. has the potential to have those who abuse the system. It does not mean the whole system is bad. It is our STRENGTH that



we do not expect the worst in people and should not condemn the others to a witch hunt. It is prudent that there is a system in place that discourages unethical behavior; and we have that. The judicial system worked and those who abused are now out of power and a strong message has been sent out. I really believe that people spread judgement to quickly. I believe in the strenght of our state, and I believe in the integrity of those who represent it. I am ashamed and hurt by the abuse that has occured, but I am not going to mirror those feelings on everyone in the political arena. This abuse is in no way indicative of Tennessee, and I would hate to see so much focus taken away from the good

I am a licensed atty and am totally disgusted by the antics. The G.Assbly needs to lead on this issue, but so far they are not. I understand that other states' ethics legisl. is much stronger, so that is the place to look for ideas on how to make the laws stronger. Also, have to fund the REgistry or whatever watchdog is in place.

901-837-9661

July 25

Governor Bredesen,

This is Frank \_\_\_\_\_. I live in Atoka, TN. I don't have much of a suggestion, other than making this public, and I am a Republican. But I want to commend you on what you're doing. It's time for lawmakers to be punished for their wrong-doings. As a general rule, people say there's two standards of the law, one for the haves, and one for the have-nots. I am really, really pleased in what you're doing, and like I say, I am a Republican, but I sure am glad you're doing it.

Thank you very much.

What is ethics? When you say something do it and before you do it, you should get the opinion of the people (especially state employees). An ethical person is honest, fair, and consistent. I have issues concerning

the Pre-K program. I am a Knox County teacher (7yrs) and my husband is too

(10years). We have two children ( 3 years old and a 14 month old). I

would love for them to be a part of the Pre-K program, but because of our income they can't participate. There are enough programs for at- risk

children (Headstart,CDC Pre-school, Child Find,etc.) What about the true

working class? I understand the importance of an excellent education and I

wanted my children to be a part of this too. Now if I want my children to

be ahead, I must pay for Preschool. I know that you have tried to improve

our salaries, but it still doesn't compete with other

occupations(engineers, doctors, lawyers, business supervisors, etc.). I

appreciate your hard work, but the fact remains that we are still

underpaid. We are the f

7148426970

July 25

This is Dr. Howard Frankel, and the first comment that I have is that somebody ought to learn how to spell "Ethics Advisory Panel in Tennessee". Ethics is spelled, E-T-H-I-C-S, not E-I-T-H-C-I-S. No wonder you

have all of these problems in Tennessee. One of the things before you learn how to address ethics is learn how to spell it. So that's my comment. I have other comments, but I'm going to run out of space. I will call you at a later date. Thank you very much.

Tennessee needs to insure that "ZERO TOLL" for ethics is the only way

and no matter what your job is it is not acceptable to be caught in any wrong

doings while serving state of Tennessee. Elected officials are not above the

Law. THANKS! Tom Standridge 450westbrook Dr N.W.

Cleveland TN, 37312

I have worked with a nonprofit for several years doing volunteer lobby work. I am convinced that there are many problems with the current system. State and local agencies, using employees compensated with tax dollars, have a disproportionate ability to "lobby" legislators compared with the private citizens and organizations. One example might be the disaster with TWRA pressing for the power to set license fees without legislative oversight and, when that power was finally given, raising rates approximately 35% in the first year. Another problem I see is the use of tax dollars to fund allegedly private non-profits (TML) which then turns around and lobbies state government on behalf of local governments and employees. These governmental agencies should be involved at the request of the legislature but that it is unfair for them to have so much power vis-a-vis the public and public interests. The line is crossed because then, these tax dollars, are being used to further the interests of the agency (which is of

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICS . MOST OF MY CONCERNS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SOME QUESTIONABLE PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF WHITE PINE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL IN CONDUCTING UNANNOUNCED SESSIONS TO PREVENT PUBLIC ARGUMENT OF SOME ITEMS AND ALSO THE PROBLEMS OF SOME COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT

REFRAINING FROM VOTING FOR ISSUES THAT CONCERN THEIR SPOUSES THAT ARE EMPLOYED

BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

Governor: If the Legislators were honest they would have a bill that would deny even a hamburger, but apparently every one of them has their hand out. Naifeh should be ashamed of himself as should Lt. Governor Wilder for his tirade against the FBI for catching these scumbags.

I think many of us await the rest of the catch.

Respectfully

Marvin D. Tuck

1623 Stewarts Ferry Pike

Hermitage, Tn., 37076

woodytuck@comcast.net

423-336-3510

July 25

My name is George Harbison, and I live in Calhoun, TN. I'm not sure of the ways to make our ethics laws stronger, that's up to you lawmakers. However, I'm encouraging everybody to do this...Make these

lawmakers guarantee there's no ties between them and lobbyists and swear that every year. If they violate their ethics oath and we find it with sting operations or whatever, put them in jail for 20 or 30 years. Some poor black guy can rob a 7/11 store and we give him 20 years, and a guy that wears a suit and a tie to work and robs us of hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars and we give them 2 years in jail because they're 60 already and 20 years would be a life-sentence, who cares. I mean, just because a guy has some kind of fancy Audi in his driveway, doesn't mean we ought to lighten up on him. Criminal sentencing should be very tough. Plus, Newton and this Ford family, they've been in trouble for years over there in Memphis. They shoot at truck drivers on the way. We keep

9313794706

July 25

Hello. My name is Darlene Janice Lee. 931-379-4706 I'll try to make this in 2 minutes, but this is 7 years of unethical legislature all documented by states and government in legal, original copies, with me never receiving unemployment, workmans comp, or any eligibilities of the State of Tennessee, which all started in 1999.

I'd love to meet with all of you to sit down and work these problems and issues out. I did ask the Justice Department for Affirmative Action from Washington. I just lost my home of 10 years July 14, 2005 of this year, because of these ethics problems and issues. Even though if I did this, GBIS, yesterday, 7/22/05, Fred Crosby said he would drop my claim.

These are problems and issues that need to be solved. My survival is at stake. Thank you so much and please contact me.

931-379-4706

July 25

Yes, my name is Darlene Lee. 931-379-4706 This is for you Governor Phil Bredesen. I have written you several times within the past seven years concerning my eligibilities in the State of Tennessee and being turned down for them from the government and state. I have worked here all of my life since I was five, motherless and fatherless, to find out that I was never eligible for any of the state benefits. Could you please give me a call? I would really appreciate it if someone would give me a call. Thank you so much.

I do not believe Tennessee has any type of Ethics Rules/Laws in place which will cause our elected officials to behave correctly. I believe if they exist - they are watered down , or there are loop holes for them to be exempt from the laws.It is ashamed when the people believe Ethics exist in the workplace but our government has made themselves exempt.

Ethics should extend to state employees as well. I think it is improper for a supervisor to rent housing to his/her employee. It presents a definite conflict of interest and impropriety on the supervisor's part.

Since there are currently ethics laws on the books,STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THOSE LAWS is a must for our society. WRONG IS WRONG NO MATTER WHO COMMITS THE WRONG AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH WITHOUT PREFERENCE AS TO WHO HAS COMMITTED THE INFRACTION (especially legislators and government officials).

I don't know the answer, but I do know that this state and this nation need to get back to some of the fundamentalist morals and values and just good sense that this state and country were founded on. We have strayed to far away. We try to please everyone instead of just doing what is right. That is really not that hard to figure out in my opinion. Most of these principles we learned in kindergarten. Maybe some of our legislators need to go back to kindergarten for a refresher course.

615-868-6790

July 25

I think you can strengthen the ethics laws as much as you want to, but it's not gonna do any good until you get ethical people holding office. You can make all the laws you want to, but they're gonna find a back door, just like Jimmy Naifeh found a back door. He's married to a lobbyist, so he gets his money that way. John Ford...he didn't do anything different from the rest of them do there. He just took the

money right out when the rest of them took it through the back door. I think that's all that's gonna happen. I'd also like to comment on this move-over law. I'm not a truck driver, but do you realize how narrow the lanes are? The trucks barely fit in the lanes. There's no room on the side of the interstate to pull over if you have any car trouble. It's not the truck driver or the car driver's fault. I've seen these trucks. They have 53ft trailers on them, then they have the tractor in front of it. How are you gonna move that much machinery over as soon as you see lights,

Lobbying should be ban from the capital hill while the general assembly is in session. That also mean the legislature plaza and their office. They should have ease to see the senate or house member than the citizen or vote that put them in office.

General assembly is prohibition from take gift,money,and a cup of coffee from a lobbying while in session.

If lobbying contribution to a legislature or governor campaign their are limit to one hundred dollars per individual election.

Legislature can not be give a vacation are trip package period while they a election official.

Legislature is prohibition from being a consulant for a business that do business with the state while they are a election official period.

615-945-6020

July 25

Yes, I wanted to make a comment on the ethics for our lawmakers. The best way to start is to do away with the legalized bribery in the form of lobbyists. The government needs to go back to the ordinary people

July 25

My name is Mary Rudy and I'm a DCS employee out of Bedford County. My concern is strengthening the ethical laws so that they can pertain to state employees and our ability to address abuses appropriated against us by our supervisors. I have been the victim of psychological abuse from 3 supervisors. The supervisor now has no problem whatsoever yelling at me in front of co-workers, and basically treating me like a moron. I suffered really terrible psychological abuse at the hands of two supervisors, plus Judy Iron, who used to be our team coordinator, and Vivian Lover, who is our current regional administrator, who did absolutely nothing to address this problem while these supervisors were still here. When I would complain to her about the abuses I was suffering and the effects it was having on my physical and mental health, all she did was tell me, "Well we don't always get to pick who our supervisor is". She didn't use those exact words, but her message was, "get over it". She would do absolute

931-456-4747

July 25

This is (female name) Johnson. My phone number is 931-456-4747. I used to be a state employee for 22 years. I got hurt and had several surgeries. I am drawing social security and disability now. I can't get insurance. They won't let me have insurance through the retirement center. I'm gonna have to pay \$60 just to see if I can get insurance. I wish someone would call me back. I'm really in a bad situation. Thank you.

901-624-9647

July 29

Hello Governor. This is Russell Davidson in Germantown, Tennessee. I have one solution to our ethics dilemma in Tennessee. It's called Term Limits. There should be mandatory term limits, just like for your office, for every office in the state of Tennessee, regardless...state, local, municipal, whatever. By doing that it would eliminate a lot of the tension problem; because anyone is gonna stay in for no more than

eight years or two terms, whichever is longer. And it would put some new life and new blood into the electoral process. Some of those fellas have been up there for 30 years and they don't know what it's like in the real world. So, if you want to change the ethics in Tennessee, enact some kind of law or constitutional amendment that requires term limits for every office in the entire state. Thank you.

423-886-7370

July 29

If people in government don't answer to anybody, for instance, the Hamilton County Medical Examiner is an entity of his own. He was probably kicked out of his training program and is non-boarded. He's not on any staff of any medical society and is not on any staff of any hospital and the two main hospital pathologists in the city think he's inappropriate and doesn't know what he's doing. He's taken in approximately 1800 cases into his office. He only does 48-50 autopsies a year...it's highly unethical, yet no one has oversight and sees what he's doing. This is a situation that needs to be checked in to. If you have any questions, you can call me at 423-886-7370...this is Dr. Kessler.

Oversight is a big issue. This is a pathologist that no one is watching, and it's scary. He makes \$180,000 a year for bilking the public. Anyway Gov, I met you once with Bruce Levy. Hopefully things can change. Take care.

423-447-2211

July 29

Yes, you talk about ethic laws...my name is Carol Hankins. I live in Pikeville, TN.

My house burned on July 19, 2001. The laws that's suppose to protect people have not done a thing for us. We lost everything we had. We had Allstate Insurance. I've called your office, I've called the President, I've called everybody that's got power that could do something to Allstate Insurance and to every insurance that won't pay people that work hard to have what they have and they won't get help. That to me is not ethic laws. Ethic laws would be to protect people...to protect the ones that have bad things happen to them, instead of letting the millionaires, the billionaire insurance companies always have their way. About the government, if the government would lower their pay, then maybe everybody else would be able to keep their insurance. All these children that's loosing their health insurance, all these elderly that's loosing their health insurance, if the bigshots that's getting the milli

931-232-8910

July 29

I would like for someone to do an investigation on a Mr. Bible and a Mrs. Brenda Neil in the Clarksville Department of Child Services Office. They have recently taken children out of a household and put them back in the same conditions. Mr. Bible gave the name of a complainant that had called in to this individual who had had the children taken away.

The Mrs. Neil one time prior to had told the lady why and said that she was married when she wasn't. These children are being put back in a situation where they should not be, by all means, one of them is going to end up being dead. No one out of the Clarksville office seems to care. So I would like an investigation done on this. I will probably try to call back another day to speak with someone directly. I will not give my name because I know that that's the way that the system works now. They do give the names out of the people that call in and complain, and I feel that this may be a threat to me, so I will not give my name but I

July 29

I tried to submit on your website at tn.gov and got an error message, then I sent another message and got returned to the other thing, so your website doesn't work; you need to get it operating. This is Joe Saino, 901-754-0699. You need to get these things operating correctly. Thank you.

Monday

This is Laura Davis, candidate for State Senate, District 29, Democrat. It is unethical; it's not good government for the elected officials to be in this race that we are running. The three elected officials should be removed from this race, ASAP. They're taking advantage over our TennCare money. We do not give them enough money as taxpayers to put them up on billboard signs. We as taxpayers do not give them enough money to pay people to help them in the election. They already have 13 more months before they complete their job. It's a conflict of interests for them stopping and rocking on our rights to run in this race. They did a budget up there, then they broke out of session. The budget that they did was money that we could use for TennCare. I want to file this initial complaint over the phone. My number is 949-7717. I'm Laura Davis, candidate for Tennessee State Senate, and we new candidates are being abused in this race financially because the Senate is representing and sponsoring the

Monday

Governor, thanks for putting this out. I'm Ernest Scrogan, and I think with Mr. Wilder taking up for Mr. Ford and then Mr. Naifeh taking up for DeBerry, it is uncalled for. They are judging them, and giving their opinion before they get all the facts. I think all of them are about crooks. Keep up the good work. Maybe you can straighten some of them out. Over.

Tuesday

Dear Mr. Bredesen,

My name is Paul Faulkner and I live in Robertson County. We've got a problem up here, and it's a big problem. Our 911 is not run by our county, it is run by a company, a utility, to quote Jackie Wilkerson, the chairman of. The problem is that, if I'm attempting to get off 911, because I wouldn't use it anyways, I've had misdialled calls by the dispatchers there. It's just not worth the money we're paying for it. And I've faxed them a letter accordingly. Here's the ethical problem. We've got a guy named Gene Cook, who's a county commissioner. He's on this 911 board; he's also on the board of the local electric company. Now there's an ethical issue going on there. Gene Cook couldn't care less about anything. As a matter of fact, the bad part about it is, Gene Cook is my commissioner for my area, and talking to him is like talking to a cardboard box. My wife and I have faxed 911 a letter of release; they're refusing to do it. I've talked to BellSouth; they say that the on

Wednesday

I believe that if we are going to be truly effective at strengthening ethics, we need to start with our services. More specifically, there are a lot of problems with the Department of Children's Services, and even more specific, Shelby County Department of Children's Services. The problem is that management is the epitome of what is unethical there. They are not respectful of the resources that the government has put in place, mainly, they squander the employees. They denigrate them; they will do anything to further themselves, even to the point, and this is what's important, all these things effect how the children are cared for, because the workers have to care for the children. But these managers are so involved with self-promotion, to the dereliction of duty and the neglect of children. It is obvious that there is a problem there, because every time we look at the news there is something wrong there in Shelby County, and I am telling you that it is management. You can stiffen the guideli

Wednesday

Good afternoon, my name is Jim Maudlin; I'm from Lawrenceburg, TN. My telephone number is 931-762-3980. I understand that the Governor has a basic statement on ethics in his administration, and his basic statement is very good. However, there are so many exceptions to the basic statement; there are so many loopholes involved. I have gone on the Governor's webpage and looked at both his ethics statement, which is very good, and also connected to the links that give you the exceptions, and once you look at the exceptions, there is nothing left in his basic statement. Just for an instance, someone in his administration, apparently, can accept a meal, as long as it's less than \$50, or 49.95, or something to that exception. Which, I think most anybody could eat on that amount, nightly. Basically, ethics just has to boil down to a person doing what is right and wrong, and anytime someone accepts money or any kind on monetary value from a lobbyist, it should be considered a bribe.

I moved from northeastern Alabama to Memphis 3 years ago. I am impressed by the self-serving, racist,

philandering and dishonesty I have been privileged to observe from the elected offices of Memphis and Shelby County. I think the FBI sting operation was outstanding, but I Cannot help but wonder how many slipped through the net. As for our Governor, he has impressed me with his willingness to Reverse his decisions and admit his mistakes. I will vote for him if he chooses to run again.

Clark Smeltzer, Jr. M.D.

Collierville, TN 38017

Thursday

Yes, my wife is a schoolteacher in Cumberland County. She worked a year last year as an interim. My wife was not rehired by the school that she worked for. We came to find out that the lady that got the job, her mother and father are teachers in the school district, and it's pretty messed up when somebody like that has a job already, and doesn't get rehired. What's really sad is that when my wife took the Praxis exams, she scored in the top 5% in the nation. Now, if Phil is really serious about NCLB, you would think that he'd want the best possible teachers in these positions to sit there and help get these children the education that they need to have a productive adult life. It's pretty sad that in Cumberland County, politics is playing a big part of who teaches and who doesn't. We have a big problem with that here. If he really wants to do something and really wants to help make a difference for these children, I'd like to see him take a stab on that and start getting these teachers that

Monday

Yes, I was calling about the ad in the paper for the ethics laws. I was wondering if you Mr. Bredesen could find the time to talk to me personally about some of the things that are happening in my case. Then, maybe you could have a little bit better understanding of who all needs to have the ethics laws apply to them and why there are some laws that are there, but are not getting used and put to their potential. People just overlook them.

If you would get in touch with me, my name is Michael Lewis. My phone number is 423-447-3178. I'd like to talk to you in a little more detail about my case and the things that are going on and that happened to me today in court. There's a lot of things that we need to change, and I'm the person that can help you. If you would, give me a call. Thank you.

Watch TDOT, Gerald Nicely, and Internal Auditor Daniel Porter for wild speculation and misuse of the media

TennCare needs to be saved for the truly needy.

We need to get serious about these crooked politicians. These disciples

of Boss Crump are the most powerful threat to democracy here and around

the globe. Fraud prone politicians are allies of terrorists and despots

- and they should be treated as such.

We need to provide independent investigative powers and funding for the

investigative office most removed from the legislative and executive

branches. Given the impact these jackals have on our ability to

rationaly govern, we should have several fulltime staff investigating

the remotest possibility of such treachery associated with any ballot in

Tennessee (local elections too).

Moderate infractions (more than half the average Tennessean's salary)

should cancel all state benefits related to your office. Lesser amounts should result in proportional cuts in benefits. Folks, especially those with moderate incomes, feel like they work and work - and only the wealthy and political profit.

We should have Zero Tolerance for significant undisclosed lobby proceeds. Undisclosed funds > \$10,000 should forfeit one's election treasury. Folks who might innocently make a mistake early in their political career would stand to lose less than politicians who have served several terms.

#### Committing serious

The application to appear on a ballot should include this new law.

The cost of the any judicial action related to the ethics of an elected official should fall to the person found to be guilty of our ethics laws.

We should increase fines for minor violations including late disclosure of any contributions or lobby treats. The minimum fine should be about half the annual Tennessee salary. Politicians hold us accountable for our taxes being paid on time each quarter. We must protect the public trust and hold them accountable for full disclosure each quarter.

Enforcing a good moral standard within our laws. We need statesmen, not politicians. Hopefully we can vote more responsible, trustworthy people. We must enact a single term or two terms and out. Once out of office for a year, they may again run for election. No one should make a living in office. Service is the name. Once convicted they must be replaced. No one should be allowed to tarnish their office. Being elected means you are set aside to be honored, should you not live and act in an honorable way you must be disgraced and serve a criminal sentence so you cannot serve in office again!!

I appreciate the efforts being made to bring meaningful ethics reform to our state. The time for this is long overdue... the word Ethics and Tennessee Legislature don't "fit together" very well at this time in our history\_\_ never has!

You will not achieve this reform while people like Mr. Nafieh are allowed to serve, while his wife is paid to actively lobby the legislature. They both personally benefit by influencing Tennessee politics. The same can be said for Majority Leader McMillan who is employed by a firm whose business it is to lobby the legislature. The fact that these people see nothing wrong in their "cozy" arrangements is enough to convince me that they will always opt for the status quo. They are tone-deaf ... they just don't get it. This seems to happen to many elected officials after they serve too long and are removed from the mainstream. The people of Tennessee deserve much better than they are getting.

What went on leading up the Tennessee Waltz sting had to be known by many in the le

With society informed as it is and so many vehicles by which to inform ourselves. There is no reason



whatever to even have any one or any group to lobby our government representatives.If their mental state is of such they need someone else to make their decisions they need to be out of office..With lobbyiest comes power and money...Thus abuse...Remove the cookie jar.... Problem Solved...

Stricter guidelines, and penalties for government employees if failing to abide by these guidelines.

Hire more "common--every day citizens" to chair boards such as these. When these employees are politically appointed due to the good ole buddy system, they are inefficient, unreliable, and not necessarily trustworthy (more times than not). Hire employees whom when somebody here's their name, everyone says "WHO"? Also, bring back "equal opportunity"; not reverse discrimination which is relevant in Tennessee's stat government for many years now.

Need strong punitive laws for violations. Need to restrict members of congress from taking any money once office is assumed.

The way I believe that Tennessee can become better Ethically in Government is to make sure that the law applys the same to every individual citizens,regardless of race or political associations.

The law is not being enforced for all citizens in Tennessee at the present time.

I was charge with a crime that I did not commit and when I submitted an application for indigent counsel for the case,it was denied, although I was unemployed.

I was not even given a hearing as the Tennessee law requires!

Right now in Tennessee, we have law that only seeks to enforce the current laws along party lines,one's financial standing or race.

My name is Earley Story and I reside at 4700 Gill, Memphis Tennessee,38109.

I have just mailed a letter to the Governor's Office.

Myself and 6 others rights have been willfully violated by public officials who simply don't care about enforcing laws to protect the citizens from governmental abuse.

I would love to speak before an honest panel of officials to expose the public corrupti

The way I believe that Tennessee can become better Ethically in Government is to make sure that the law applys the same to every individual citizens,regardless of race or political associations.

The law is not being enforced for all citizens in Tennessee at the present time.

I was charge with a crime that I did not commit and when I submitted an application for indigent counsel for the case,it was denied, although I was unemployed.

I was not even given a hearing as the Tennessee law requires!

Right now in Tennessee, we have law that only seeks to enforce the current laws along party lines,one's financial standing or race.

My name is Earley Story and I reside at 4700 Gill, Memphis Tennessee,38109.

I have just mailed a letter to the Governor's Office.

Myself and 6 others rights have been willfully violated by public officials who simply don't care about enforcing laws to protect the citizens from governmental abuse.

I would love to speak before an honest panel of officials to expose the public corrupti

In Unicoi County schools I have seen the most educated most excellent school principals, teachers and a director of instruction abused by our new director, Denise Brown.

I live in rural West TN. Since Gov Bredesen has been in office, I think it is wrong if someone who is trying

to get a state job to have to go and meet with Gladys Crain. She controls all the state jobs in my area. I have a trooper friend of mine who told me that Ms Crain had pressure put on him to drop charges against a relative of her's for DUI. He would not drop the charges. He also said he lost the case in court because two other troopers testified against him. He says the two troopers that testified against him would probably get promoted. He says this is all verifiable. I think this is WRONG.

Unethical behavior will never be eliminated as long as family members of legislators are allowed to be lobbyists. Relatives of legislators need to be prohibited from being lobbyists.

I feel that laws should apply to the lawmakers as well as citizens. The average citizen has little to no faith in our political and legal systems in this state/country. Ethics standards and penalties should be increased. Our lawmakers should be held to the highest of standards or their jobs, pensions and everything else should be forfeited. If they are found in violation, they should pay the penalty. Possibly making an example of those in the current situation might serve as a warning to others.

Note - I find it strange that in your list of occupations at the bottom of this survey that neither Agriculture or Farming is listed.

Dear Governor Bredesen:

I know you don't have the backbone but the only decent thing to do is RESIGN IMMEDIATELY. Under your leadership you have let crook Senator John Ford continue his 30 years of stealing from the decent tax payers, and then allow him to collect a pension as a final costly insult to Tenn. We have elected you, Phil, to stop this type of thing. Instead it takes the feds to stop crook John and many others, a la, Al Capone when he owned all of Chicago and much of Illinois. Under you "ethics" has become even a bigger joke than it has been for years in the past. Look up the word "ethics." there really is such a word. It is supposed to replace "bribes, kickbacks, and stealing: in government. Of course, I am getting much too technical to even suggest honesty in government when crooked actions by crooks like John Ford and others like him are shielded by you.

"Here's a novel way to punish corrupt officials, said Lagos' This Day in an editorial. Kill them. Nigerians are so frustrated at

Office of Governor Phil Bredesen,

Since the Nashville meeting of the "Group" was an organizational meeting and not a "Town Hall" meeting, what are the cities, locations, dates and times of the scheduled "Town Hall" meetings. Some of us in the Nashville area may want to attend a meeting in another city to present our ethics comments directly to the "Group" serving as an advisor to our great Governor. A public notice and a e-mail reply to me would be appreciated.

groverlporter@aol.com

Any person who has profited as a result of his/her political office is not representing the people of Tennessee. The persons who have been given the responsibility to make changes should also keep this in mind. As a Tennessean, I am tired of the profiteering on every level of government which includes the city in which I live, Memphis. Thanks Governor Bredesen for your dedication to making changes in government that matter.

Review ASCE's fundamental canons of ethics.

From: Marty Haywood <marty.haywood@fedex.com>

To: phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/25/2005 5:11:04 PM

Subject: RE: Message from Governor Bredesen

Please pass along my congratulations and full support to Governor

Bredesen. I am a Tipton County Board of Education member and long standing independent in my voting direction. Governor Bredesen's leadership, strategy and focus on the requirements for success is right on target. He is doing the things we always hear from the general public, I.e. "make a stand"; "believe in your plan"; and "making the sometimes unpopular decision because it is the right thing to do".

I have never distributed a congratulatory note to a public service mailbox but I just want Governor Bredesen and his administration (Education being my favorite) to hear a word of praise on occasion. It is unfortunate that we live in a world where sometimes "everything is expected but not worth paying for" by some group. But we must

From: Billy R. Alexander <balexander@alexanderlitigationservices.com>

To: phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/28/2005 10:41:48 AM

Subject: Ethics

Dear Mr. Bredesen:

I'm so angry that I don't know whether to scream or cry!

With all the talk about ethics going on and all the acts of un-ethical conduct

being exposed, how can House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh defend an act such as admitted

to by Representative Lois DeBerry? Even more amazing is the fact that she first denies the

act, then admits to it later.

Representative DeBerry has over 30 years in office. It seems that the longer they stay in office

the more they think they are entitled to ignore the law. It seems that the line between

right and wrong begins to blur.

I once heard a deputy Sheriff say 'I don't issue traffic tickets because it makes me feel hypocritical because I speed myself'. I'm beginning to think that maybe

some of the members of the General A

---

From: Martha Wettemann <jpowers8916@charter.net>

To: phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

Date: 7/28/2005 7:17:47 AM

Subject: Ethics Commission

Dear Governor Bredesen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ethics special session.

1. I am very concerned about the need to have an honest and fair election process in Tennessee. I personally know Tennesseans who could not vote for certain races in Nov. 2004 because the voting machines did not show those races on the screen of the voting machines. Undercounts, phantom votes, and other phenomena should be minimized or eliminated.

To that end, the law needs to state that the state and local election commissioners cannot have consulting contracts or relationships with election machine or equipment vendors. At least one official has stated that this is legal right now.

By the way, Common Cause recommends a voter verified paper ballot which is

essential to accurate voting and

You have a huge problem and we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg. Hold every lawmaker accountable, the representatives should not be using any of there voting, nor influence for personal gain. they should not get 1 cent without it being reported anywhere, no loopholes no free dinners. They dont need free dinners or trips.

Politicians watching politicians in ethical matters is no different then pedophiles watching over our children. I trust neither.

Adherence to ethics rules should be followed by all public officials. Periodic review of ethic requirements and status for each person should be done (quarterly).

Just inforce what you have in place already.

I am an employee of the East Tennessee Regional Lab, Knoxville. I have had a hostile work environment complaint in to the Dept of Human Resources for over 3 months. The entire incidents have occured over nearly a year. Fellow employees, supervisors, and managers have intentionally lied and misrepresented themselves in an attack to get me in trouble and "run me out" of my positon because I would not sacrifice my professional integrity and "follow the crowd". I have given proof and caught these people in the act to only be threatened and punished myself. The lab is GROSSLY overstaffed, too many people have too much time on their hands. When a supervisor only has one employee and very little overall responsibility it tends to breed complacency. Then when management does not take an active roll in day to day events and blindly believes what they are told, it leads to abuse. We as a state need to review job positions and hire more task oriented people willing to tackle more work. Instead of offering the l

While legislators are understandably concerned about the wellbeing of their constituents, it is important to have it understood that hiring and firing of state employees should be done within the rules and policies of civil service and that it is not conducive to having a professional and competent state workforce if legislators try to influence or control the process. In the past, there have even been "patronage" groups in counties that had to "approve" new hires for state postions. This is wrong.

Ethics should simply go back to "for the people, by the people" I would like each politician to live like half the people in Tenn. who hard hard workers, making minimum wages, paying their bills, volunteering to help others (without pay) and then finding out that as they reach their "golden years" they are dropped from TennCare - trying to squeeze 400/month in meds on a \$10,000/yr. annual salary. Would one of you politicians just try it for 6 months and then go back to all your government positions and try to tell the people they know what they are going through. How nervous would you be for yourself and your family if you could not get medical coverage and could lose the one possession you worked all your life for - your home. Please tell me because I truly do not understand anymore. Ethics - haha!!

Fair distribution of job promotions.

Re: Senator Ron Ramsey and speeding: My son is the Keith Jones who captured the Senator speeding incident on his hi-tech new police equipment. Keith served 4 yrs. as an MP in Aberdeen (Soldier of the Month) and Germany. Then R.O.T.C. graduate U.T.C., two more years active as Lt. in Army in Korea. HE IS AN ETHICAL MAN, and I resent the disparaging remarks from an UNETHICAL Senator who is head of the "Ethics" committee. And I am, as is Keith, a Republican! Thank you!

Barbara Claiborne

Dear Governor Bredesen,

I suggest the following regarding improving ethics and state government:

1. No state employee or elected state official should be permitted to take any gifts (including services—be specific with examples in the new law) at all from lobbyists, from companies which contract out with the state, from company liaisons or from lobbyists for those companies or trade organizations. This prohibition should be extended to those companies, etc. who are in the process of bidding or writing a bid to contract for the state. The prohibition, at a minimum, should pertain to 1st degree relatives of the employees and officials.

2. State employees, elected officials, lobbyists, company liaisons, companies which contract with the state, and companies who have submitted contracts with the state are required to list all gifts and services

between above parties (including relatives), both received and given, including purchases as small as a cup of coffee, and to whom/from whom it

4. No elected state official may work for a company that contracts out with the state or has submitted a bid to contract with the state within the year, while holding office or for 2 years following leaving elected office. No elected state official may work as a lobbyist while elected to office or for 2 years after leaving elected office. In the law it must be specified that no income will be earned, and income will not be paid in a deferred manner either. This can begin with all new elections as part of the understanding of candidates.

5. No company which has a relationship extant or pending with the state may contribute to campaigns or PACs by either monetary means or services. The prohibition pertains to all company officers. If this cannot be gotten thru, then monetary/services restrictions should be developed.

6. No company can coerce, even subtly (specify examples in law), its employee(s) to contribute to campaigns or PACs.

7. PACs can give no more than \$1000 to each can

lobbying is out of control. The legislators have forgotten they represent the people of TN. Money has become the focus of our legislators and it is time we clean up lobbying, campaign finance, and disclosure requirements and current penalties. I can not believe the a legislator can represent a district that he does not live in. The people of TN should receive the perks that our state government employees get. We pay taxes to make legislators richer.

I think ethics in Government is very necessary because if we do not have good ethics in Government we teach our children the wrong ideas. I think that when we look at ethics in Government we should take a good look at our children and think of what we are teaching them and base our opinion of ethics on what we want our children to know and learn. If we don't do something with our ethics in the Government we are going to go to the DOGS (if it hasn't already)

As a state employee we have an ethics policy and we train annually so there is no confusion as to 'ethical conduct' on our part as we serve the citizens of Tennessee. If the legislators followed the Board of Probation and Parole policy, there would be no confusion among them. Basically we cannot accept gifts, or anything of value in the performance of our duties. Furthermore, we cannot use our official positions to secure privileges for ourselves. Anything that could have the 'appearance' of a conflict of interest is prohibited.

When a legislator is allowed to take money from ANYONE, thats a problem. If Tennessee were to pass ethics legislation that no money or gifts can be accepted.....PERIOD, and that legislators who do are so will be removed from office.. we would then have honesty and public trust restored in our government.

Thank you for allowing me to speak my mind on this subject.

while state gov. is in session, lobbyist should not be allowed within 50 miles of Nashville

Goodmorning,

Your ideas on ETHICS within this great state is admirable, but I am still concerned about the employees that work for this state. the Department of b.o.p.p. is still in choas. Retaliation, DISCRIMINATION, hostile work environments and intimidation still exist. I am sure you are still aware of this things. NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS have been sent to you and your office regarding Lois Deberry, Charles Traugher and Helen Ford. How can you be concerned about ETHICS within the state when unethical behavior still exists within the B.O.P.P. as you are well aware. DISCRIMINATION still exists as you are aware. I have been writting and calling you for years to help this department but to no avail. I HOPE AND I DO PRAY that one day you will listen and make the necessary corrections within the B.O.P.P. I DO HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE LITTLE PEOPLE (line staff) mean something to this administration. As usual that you for your time.

This is not a new problem in Tennessee politics. Unfortunately, it has only been paid lip service in the past. You have the opportunity to make your place in Tennessee history as the governor who brought Tennessee into the 21st century by insisting ethics legislation be the real deal and not full of engineered

loop holes. Your Advisory Group must be above reproach, and it has become closer to being so. It cannot include legislators or lobbyists. A special session must be called this November before the regular general assembly meets or it will just be "business as usual". I think the citizens of this state have had enough. The arrogance of the latest corruption sting targets is appalling but expected. The legislative fraternity is tightly knit and unlikely to police itself. This issue could be the deciding factor in your reelection. I know I will be watching it closely and talking to my friends and fellow congregation members.

You have set a great example of ethics in action with your work on Tencare and in all other areas of your work. In this way you have set the standard for others to follow. It is not like calling others black when there is pie all over your face. You have done great for this state.

Don't allow any goods or services to be traded between legislators and lobbyist. Keep lobbyist away from legislator as much as possible.

1. Create a Public Disclosure Commission, a body that is directly elected by the people, and is responsible for enforcing disclosure requirements pertaining to lobbying, state contracts, campaigns, and any other financial or otherwise beneficial transactions that affect the people. (See Washington (state) for an excellent example.)

2. Prohibit lobbyists from sitting on state boards and commissions. (Paul Ney has already recommended this, but I strongly second it.)

3. Term limits for the General Assembly. I hate that it comes to this, because mandatory term limits are a restriction on individual liberty. Ideally, legislators would self-limit; but ours obviously won't, so we need to codify some responsibility here.

4. Change the position of Attorney General to an elected one.

5. Prohibit lobbyists from directly participating in legislative sessions, including committees, hearings, and other non-"floor" activities.

Ethical behavior is absolutely necessary for our government officials, not only for performance of their legal duties but as a reflection on all of their actions.

One item is obviously needed, a disclosure of ALL funds received and spent by political candidates and PAC organizations. Penalties for violations should carry a heavy penalty.

Recent elections in Sullivan County seem to have had obvious violations of the current law which does not require disclosure of campaign contributions of over \$100. Some candidates said they have collected \$10,000 plus in a short period of time with no individual contribution exceeding the \$100 limit for disclosing the donor. This stretches the imagination.

In Washington County the head of the election commission is married to the property assessor. I really don't think that is right.

There has always been & will continue to be some form of corruption in government. However, I feel it is very important to strongly discipline the guilty parties to show the citizens of our state this behavior will not be tolerated. We need to have clearly defined penalties that apply to anyone found guilty.

Use the country's founder's fundamental beliefs in simple right and wrong. Although everyone has differences in what is acceptable, there are basics for right and wrong that government should use as a high standard. If there are any questions about it, then choice should be made to the "good side". State government has developed a bad reputation although I personally work with people who I am proud to say hold high ethical standards. I don't understand why all government servants cannot do that also.

Governor,

I am in complete agreement with you that ethics reform has to be a priority. But my belief is that those with questionable moral/ethical standards are at the highest levels of the state legislature. Many of these elected officials still do not believe that taking even minor contributions from lobbyists... or donations towards their campaign funds, used for other "purposes" is wrong. Therein lies the real problem! I believe that a special panel needs to be convened of those outside of the legislature to investigate all "plausible" claims of financial misconduct. This has to be conducted from outside the government for real results to be made...as some on the ethics committee itself, might have questionable dealings in their history!

All contributions should go into a single account and divided among parites. Therefore the contributors would not know who would benefit from the contribution and no promises could be made.
Every state government official and employee should be held accountable for his or her ethical behavior.
I think the need for a time clock is at hand, this would stop so much confusion and be more effective.
more stings
In light of the Tennessee Waltz and Bredesen's desire to "make Tennessee's ethics laws stronger, " I thought I'd "share" what my ancestor, Col. Nathaniel G. Taylor wrote to his son upon entering the office of Governor of Tennessee, JESUS! Why not read this on the house floor? Moreover, hang up a large copy of the Ten Commandments and impeach those who violate the law.
Col. Taylor died there in 1887, the year following the struggle between his two political sons for the Governorship of Tennessee. On January 17, a few months before his death, he wrote Bob (Robert Love Taylor) the following letter. It was given to him the day he was inaugurated.
My Dear Soný As you enter today on your official career as Governor of Tennessee, I want to say a few things by way of encouragement and warning. As a public officer you will meet success or failure just in proportion to your observance or non-observance of certain simpl
Let's not have people that make laws, making the ethic laws.
I believe the great citizens of Tennessee do not get equal representation when lobbyists have the ear of the legislature. We need laws that will eliminate this disparity. All persons serving in state government should be required to disclose records pertaining to any finances they are receiving or involved in. Penalties should be stiffened to insure these laws are not being disregarded.
On the assumption that ethics reform is still on your mind I would like to respond to your question above. My dad was a state employee for 43 years, started in the late '20s or early '30s with the Highway Dept. Over the years we would sit around the dinner table discussing our day and whatever...many times my Dad would share things relating to his job and politics he had learned...which we were never to repeat outside our home. Anyway, I remember once, after hearing what seemed even to me as a youngster, to be unacceptable, asking what would happen if everybody just got honest. His reply was that everything would fall apart. My Dad was not a cynical person; he was basing an opinion on what he knew and observed. I understood even then how unethical actions could create a self-supporting system. I applaud your attention to this issue, but you have been in government long enough to have the same kind of exposure to how things work that my Dad had.
As far as making the ethics laws stronger, my suggestion
I feel that an independent ethics board that has no part of the government should be hired to police the policies and ensure that everyone is following the rules. A lot of times you have the same group of folks making the calls that have to follow the rules. That just seems like a conflict of interest. I want Tennessee to be a honest state with values. These allegations have been an embarrassment to our state. I think there are too much grey area and not enough black or white.
NEED AN ETHICS COMMITTEE FROM OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATURE WITH POWER TO INVESTIGATE & NOT TO PROTECT THEIR TURF OR COVER UP.
Everyone should be accountable for their actions, especially the law makers. When we run for office we know we will live in a glass house. Law makers should be the example, not headline news. As far as how



you can control this, I'm not sure. Maybe a crystal ball. I feel Governor Bredesen is the best this State has ever had. I will vote for him each time he runs.

The Tenn General Assembly passed TCA 8-50-116 in 2000. However, as long as the Tenn Supreme Court appoints the Tenn. AG, and the TENN AG office is allowed waste taxpayer dollars on legal representation to state employees alleged to have acted maliciously, criminally, or for personal gain, your state government will never eradicate the public corruption of public officials because state employees who come forward are retaliated against and punished by illegally terminating them without due process.

Then, the Tenn Courts help to continue to cover up the internal corruption, not only in the various agencies but in the Tenn Courts themselves.

we need ethics reform like cos need better pay thats it you cant live with out it in tennessee

yes but did the governor pick the rite people for the advisory group or are they all just his friend. you need every day hard working people in this group

Ethics reform is essential to every citizen in Tennessee. Communication is a key factor in knowing what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.

This should have been done 20 yrs ago. Anyone who has worked in state govt in Nashville (I have) knows what crooks the legislators have always been and how they were always taking bribes of some kind..Thank God for Phil Williams, he has em on the run, but wait til election and see who goes home forever from the hill!!

Maybe these crooks will get the message, either thru the FBI stings or when the voters get them out next election

Bunch of crooks down there, hope they all get busted for stealing from the people of Tennessee, would like to see the entire floor in jail.

I would like to serve on a committee that cover ethics violations in government contracts. I know a lot about this.

First, any money donated or paid to any member of the legislative, judicial or executive branches of state government MUST be reported on the Web as soon as received (by the recipient) and as soon as donated (by the payor). The two MUST MATCH. If not, inquiry and prosecution (if necessary) must follow swiftly.

At the very minimum, it would alert taxpayers and you as to any hint of dishonesty in the government,

First, any money donated or paid to any member of the legislative, judicial or executive branches of state government MUST be reported on the Web as soon as received (by the recipient) and as soon as donated (by the payor). The two MUST MATCH. If not, inquiry and prosecution (if necessary) must follow swiftly.

At the very minimum, it would alert taxpayers and you as to any hint of dishonesty in the government,

1. It should be illegal for legislators to receive money for any purpose from anyone other than the reimbursements by the state government for simple travel expenses.

2. There should be only one short term for legislators, requiring no further campaign expenses.

3. Initial campaigns should be funded by a state pool of money, simple ads for all candidates.

Legislators should not be allowed to go from the General Assembly to being a lobbyist without a "cooling off" period. And, that period should be longer than one year. I understand that every legislator has a vested interest in items of business that relates to him/her (i.e., banking, farming, trucking, etc), but its another thing to have legislators that are executive directors of trade associations such as Gary Odom. By rights he should withdraw from discussions involving optometry, ophthalmology, TennCare, and other health-related issues. If nothing else, it gives him an inside advantage over those who support opposing sides.

I'm not concerned so much with how much lobbyists are paid as I am with who's paying them and how much they're spending to influence legislators. Lobbyists should have to report every dollar spent and on whom it's spent, no matter how large the group. Reports should be individualized and not allowed to group expenditures under "West/East/Middle Tennessee [pick your party]".

Every penny spent or received should have a receipt or some kind of paper trail. If not, how can they be reimbursed.

I think the recent THP honorary badge situation, has destroyed any credibility that the Bredesen administration has ever had. Where are the ethics in our State Government and Safety Department? It is time for a new Safety Commissioner!!!!!!!!!!!!

There is a desperate need for ethical reform in our legal system. I live in Chattanooga where the statement, "attorneys break the law every day" is so much a part of the profession that a number of attorneys have said it to me with the same tag line, "get over it." I have been in Chattanooga 30 years, built businesses, created jobs, and had a good life until (another problem area that new Mayor may be resolving) a subsidy of the City Gov., CNE, destroyed my home and life. The broke their contracts and many laws and codes. I will be at Chattanooga State for the panel discussion on Thursday 25th. Five years of my life and ability to contribute to community has been lost from dealing with the fallout from CNE's damage. A lack of ethics is what I feel made these and other problems possible, and what is desperately needed. Thanks to the Governor for making them a priority.

Lt. Governor Wilder Admits "Mistake"

Political Favoritism Behind Bill to Expand TWRC

posted May 16, 2005. This headline is from the web site chattanooga.com and refers to the TWRC and the favoritism that apparently goes on in our government. I am not very knowledgeable of the laws, policies, and penalties for ethics violations, but I would think this would be some sort of violation. The full article can be found easily enough on the web. This affects me on a personal level as I am an avid sportsman here in Tn. Maybe we do not need new laws but just need to truly enforce the old ones.

I am very interested in the ethics within our judiciary. Someone needs to pay close attention to just how well of a job our justice system is working. Special attention needs to be placed upon the local district attorneys offices. How do they handle their cases? And why? They need to answer to the public in some way. There is a real lack of trust with the legal system these days. Are district attorneys really being ethical and accountable in their dealings or are they running amuck without concerns of recourse? Everyone knows the answer... This must change to regain our trust in the legal system. What exactly is Governor Bredesen's view on an ethical and accountable legal system (with an emphasis on local DA's offices)?

re Travel: I don't know the current policy, but I would like for any earned Frequent Flyer miles to be banked for

state employees' usage and not be allowed to accrue for employees' personal travel.

I see the desire by citizens to reform ethics in our government but I do not see anyone currently in office or in a position of authority with the courage and strong leadership skills to complete the task. Too many friends and families with government connections protecting each other. If you want to make a difference make examples out of the group caught in the Tennessee Waltz sting and cut off all future money, retirement, insurance, ability to hold an office or chair a position again. Make their punishment painful. It's still a mute point if Bredesen and people in authority are unable to take control. There can not be preferential treatment due to friendship as there is today.

That is just the tip of the iceberg. If you want to really clean up the offices, start on the county levels and get those that have let power corrupt them. Hamilton County has one of the worst reputations for corruption in policing in the state. Our sheriff's dept is full of "good ole boys" who will cover felonies for their buddies and jail people for lesser offenses. We can't get anything done, because some of the crooks are working for the sheriff. As a voter and taxpayer, it sickens me that I have no say as to the lack of integrity our sheriff's office and employees operate. Clean it up or drop this farce of pretending to care. My husband and I are sickened with the "politics" that runs this state. You and your officials do not care about the everyday people, just the money people. We really are getting a bad taste in our mouths about this "wonderful state". Corruption is corruption and bribes aren't nearly as damaging to someone as failure to get protection and justice when the very people w

I think two employees in an office should not be married or having a romantic relationship since it is not conducive to the successful operation of the office. Especially if both parties are married or in the process of a divorce. This should be investigated and dealt with from the executive level. I am glad we have a Governor who cares and is concerned. There is a security issue here since an estranged spouse could

cause harm in an office according to statistics. A concerned worker.
As a long time citizen of TN, recent events such as the Tennessee Waltz have confirmed my suspicions and fears. When the leadership of the legislative branch remains in power for years and years, corruption almost always occurs. Until the leadership is changed, true reform will be almost impossible to occur. Since the legislature appears reluctant to deal with ethics, I have very little confidence in our current state legislature representatives.
the lobbyist should have to report every penny given to senators then they can not hide any more money, and if they caught
they should be kicked out of the
government without any retirement or
back pay, if they have lied about
what they did they should have to do jail time. term limits would
help, and the lobbyist should have
to pay a fine if they are caught
and kept from lobbying any more.
With "Ethics" at the TOP of our list maybe Tennessee wouldn't be at the BOTTOM of every other list. It's disgusting. We are smarter than this! Let it show!
I'm from Washington State. Copy our disclosure laws, PDC. Do not allow this constant family employment in government and on Boards. Bredesen should not appoint any lawmakers family to Government positions/boards. Elected officials should account for their time. Do they actually stay on the job? More cooperation with press to disclose conflicts and finances. Allow for more statewide elected positions.
Institute a plan whereby all registered lobbyists must re-register to be a valid participant in the lobbying arena. Create a workable set of rules and regs to ensure that the newly registered lobbyist will abide by the ethics mandates of the House and Senate. Create an oversight board to review lobbyists activities. Provide a mechanism to eliminate any unethical lobbyist and hold the organization that hired this lobbyist accountable. My company OpSec consultants, LLC consists of retired FBI Agents and former military officers that could provide some valuable assistance to the State as an independent oversight medium.
make rules, policies and consequences for violating rules and policies highly visible. have meaningful, enforceable, timely consequences for violating rules and policies. violation of rules pertaining to elections should keep that person from being elected, representatives say over and over that getting into office is their primary goal, slapping them with a fine after the fact can just be considered a cost of doing business. there also needs to be oversight, especially in the form of random and unannounced audits to encourage on-going compliance.
I think that a committee made up of "regular" citizens and clergy with no political background could be very effective in helping with ethics reform.
There are too many violations in local government. If we would get some honest people in these government agencies, instead of every man for themselves. And keep track of government spending. Take care of priorities and know what they are. Education is the last thing we need to cut back on. Than Tennessee wouldn't have to worry about cutting the budget. I'm a state employee and where I'm at, there is no equal opportunities. I've been there seven years and no promotion. I got a Associates Degree in Business Administration, no raise. My title has been changed since January no salary upgrade, I will obtain my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration this fall. This is unfair, to those that are trying. When someone leaves a position, they have to interview people. But they have in mind, who they are going to hire. And it's usually a friend of theirs. I call it the "Buddy System" That's politics for you. Thank you, for lending an ear.
At the heart of every individual lies potential for going astray, often a band wagon approach, at the same time lies the potential for moral excellence, reinforced by accountability which implemented by 3 or more witnesses, assigned departmentally fiscal monies allotted for various departments, then citizens as

appointed to review, research, the (retired senior citizen enterprise) monies allotted was spent receipt for services or purchases for physical merchandise is being used or actualization of depreciation and or viewing materials for adjustment, disposal. As noted, inventory 2 times a year, with a physical sheet and id tags and receipt verified and report both in house and governing board, and appointees and itemized statement to interested tax payer or readily available to public with semi-annual review taskforce with recommendations research services, results, on hand financial advisor

for the people, by the people. Integrity is most appealing when package and presented at opportune moments and the allu

Ethics reform in Tennessee will never be taken seriously until governmental employees at all levels (including and especially the legislature) are asked to abide by the same rules and laws as all Tennesseans. This includes open meetings, restrictions on lobbying and lobbyists, and harsh punishment for those who are caught in illegal activities like the recent stings.

On a daily basis I see ethics violations in our local government. I sometimes wonder if the individuals involved even know what ethics violations are. As a very recent example our local government sent out a bid for a telephone system for the South Highland Learning Center. An existing vendor wrote the bid specs and gave them to the county. The specs were written in such a way as to insure that the vendor who gave them the specs would be the low bidder. Now the individual who received the specs may or may not have known that this is a conflict of interest. My thought is that every employee who has the authority to purchase anything should have to read and sign an ethics statement which specifies what the rules and violations are and what the end results will be if they do not adhere to the rules. We see so much of the "emergency bid" use in our area which means that the department does not have to bid if its considered an emergency. Considered emergency is in the eye of the beholder. I do not sell telecommuni

The lobbyists and politicians should have to make full disclosure of all income & contributions, regardless of amount. There should be no cash contributions. If the ethic laws or policies are violated, the lobbyist should lose all rights to lobby, the politician should be removed from all committees and not allowed to go to any state paid seminars, etc. Any violations should be published in all major newspapers in the state. Also, approval of expense reimbursement should be made before the expense with strict limits regarding need.

The Tn. Waltz video shared with Tn. citizens via news broadcast was something that needed done a LONG time ago. So many in politics are doing wrong and the trust of this nation's citizens is faltering due to this lack of trust in its leadership.

Taking bribes to push certain bills through to become laws should hold a strong penalty and the office holder should be immediately discharged from their position.

I live in Shelby county and I am so ashamed of the City Officials, police, and lawyers that are crooked here in Memphis. The lawyers charge high prices and do absolutely nothing. Ethics has gone to Hell in this area and nothing is being done. You report the wrong but no one changes it. Our government is horrible.

PUT YOURSELF IN SOME OF OUR SHOES BEFORE YOU MADE ANY JUDGEMENTS... YOU'RE RICH AND CAN AFFORD MEDICINES AND DOCTORS... A WHOLE LOT OF US CANNOT!!!!

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS ARE MADE ON TIME!!!! THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG WOMEN WITH CHILDREN WHO NEED THAT MONEY ON A REGULAR BASIS...

Mr. Bredesen. Do you remember a Family Practice doctor in Memphis who stood up in one of your advisory meetings, asking you personally to please give her notice of changes to the TennCare pharmacy benefits with enough time to arrange uninterrupted medicine supplies for her patients? You looked me in the face and said you would. I've had over 1000 persons calling and coming in begging for me to do something. I've had to reduce my practice by 50% since the first of July just to have time to help them. Many patients went without life-saving medications regardless of my best efforts. Spouses have stood in my waiting room screaming and crying because their loved one's chronic pain medicine has been cut off. I could go on and on with the stories. YOU did this to them and did it to me. You lied to my face and assured me this would not happen. Shame on you.

They need to be held accountable

The state is run by about 600 special interest people/ lobbyists.

Mr. Wilder showing up at an ethics committee meeting is just another example. Nashville needs a complete change. I think the FBI sting is just the tip of things. Rep. Newton more or less said bribes were

a standard way of doing business in Nashville. A republicans goes to work for a drug company after he votes for a bill to help them. Most bills are written by lobbyist. Look at the road builders. Time and time again they built, rebuild, and repave the same road. Why does all money not go to the general fund? Why do they have their own piggy bank? LOBBISTS PASSING OUT MONEY TO LEGISLATORS AND OTHERS.

Nashville stinks more than New Orleans right now.

I was disturbed to hear that my legislators relied so heavily on lobbying activities for information concerning pending legislation. I knew we had a problem, but it is bigger than I had initially thought. Legislators need information to make sound decisions. They should have access to that information from some central source within State government. And citizens should know who is feeding that information resource. As a citizen, I also want to be able to track how my legislator is using that resource. Also, those lobbyist should provide full financial disclosure on monies paid to them and monies spend on legislators (meals, gifts, campaign donation, etc.) The poor and dis-enfranchised citizens in Tennessee are being impacted by wealthy special interest groups' influence on our legislators. This has to be fixed. Let's take our time and do it right.

I think it's time to recognize that the "contributions" lobbyists give to legislators are nothing more than bribes. The legislators that accept them are selling their votes to the highest bidder. They should be voting for ALL the citizens of the state, not just those with money.

more scrutiny of all activities involving ethics

The 'good old boy' system has got to be stopped ! You have elected people who take money from special interests with no regard for the government regulations.

Criminal to say the least. Maybe a 10 yr mandatory prison sentence without 'bleeding heart' lawyer intervention would maybe keep the politicians honest.

You need a 'no deal' ethics program. If the politician is caught, it is jail time and no excuses or deals.

I feel our state representatives are so removed from the communities they represent that it becomes hard to empathize with the people. Get back to the community. Take an interest in the people. Learn what they would like the govt to be. And this website is a step closer to that end. I was rather disturbed by the cuts made in the Tn care program due to the lack of adequate supervision of the program itself. There needs to be an agency or committee to oversee the enrollees activities. To review their expenditures on the program. A copay or limits on the usage. In order to find the people who abuse and take advantage of the system. I applaud Operation Tn Waltz for acknowledging and sending the message that it wasn't just the enrollees burdening the system, but it was also a failure of our state govt. That's why it is important to regain the trust of the people. To restore the faith.

As far as, the Lobbying activities of huge companies are concerned that's a competing interest that is motivated by pro

Honorable Governor Bredesen, It does not take a panel or other group to see what is wrong with the legislative process. It takes bold leadership to make the necessary changes to the structure specifically having a 3 year waiting period for politician to become a lobbyist and stop grandfathering the wives and husbands in as lobbyist. It is perceived as a foot dragging on the governor's office and the speaker of the house on making a prudent decision now.

I know for a fact that the ethics of certain school officials and teachers are questionable. I experienced the trickery myself. And now they are trying it again with my 6 year old son. A school principal tried to get me to have my daughter assessed for adhd after a thyroid condition was found. When I refused she was held back in 1st grade. Now my 6 year old son has been targeted and I refused. Now it seems that she singles him out at every chance and I'm fed up with her and I want it stopped.

Involve the average, politically unconnected citizens in the reform. Since it does not appear that the legislators can police themselves, then let the people make the laws to police them. As an average citizen, it sickens me to see our government stand for what is right, only to be run in all the wrong ways. Representatives were meant to allow the peoples' voices to be heard, but that just does not happen any more. They are only looking out for themselves, and that may just be perception. However, they are doing nothing to change that perception. At my job, we are absolutely not allowed to take any gifts, dinners, etc., as it may lead to improper actions. Why should it be any different for public officials?

Please follow the course of action outline in Larry Daughtery's column in the Tennessean this last Sunday-9-03-05.
As long as lobbyists are allowed to conduct business as usual, there will not be any significant change in the "me first" ethical conduct of the legislators.
The nature of legislation is compromise and the legislature cannot be expected to operate in a 100% transparent state, but there needs to be a method for determining who is minding the public's business and who is out for Monkey business.
If the Citizen Advisory Board hasn't been completely filled by now, I'd like to serve.
State employees should be held accountable to the taxpayers. I question the practice of employees being allowed to spend work time coordinating orders, collecting money, and distributing products from ABC and LTD catalog companies. AVON, Pampered Chef, Creative Memories, etc. are included. THANK YOU.
I have multiple perspectives on Ethics in Government (and Business, Life, etc.) but cannot find ANYONE or site/prompt which can/will tell me if meeting is still planned for tomorrow in Tri-Cities area. I guess I'll have to contact Ben Atchley or Mike Cody. I am a businessman who has dealt with all types of policies, travelled extensively (FCPA), and teach. I already committed to provide input direct to the Committee.
Ethics in state government should start and end with:
1. Eliminate lobbyists.
2. Prohibit legislators from taking any gift no matter how small from anyone.
3. Encourage voters to elect honest legislators.
I think giving residents of other states TENNCARE is violation of Ethics since people of tennessee can't get tennicare and live in tennessee.....
Get back to me on this subject
How ethical is it to kill the people that elected you. The Gov. is directly causing Tennesseans to die with his Tennicare cuts. I'm sure you will throw this away because you could care less also.
As a state employee for 18 years now (F&A & Military), I have always been cautious in accepting items from contractors and vendors. It upsets me to see these "Peers" arranging laws and benefits for their own personal use. I barely make ends meet now and don't even feel I get paid for my education & experience for the type of work I do. I regularly shop and buy gas in Ky to keep from paying the additional gas tax and tax on food. Why don't you have them "arrange" a free YMCA membership for my family. I've personally seen a consultant come in our office and say "he was a good friend of Gov Wilders" and he referred them to our office - Our office set him up with a consultant contract for \$10,000.00. Why don't you do the same for me?
I am deeply concerned about so many people in Tn. losing tennicare, some even paid premiums. I think if it is going to be cut out, it should be for everyone. I feel that just because I have some property (that has been in the family for over 150 years) does not mean I should not be able to have Tennicare, when a friend keeps it because they do not own anything, mainly because they do not want to lose a welfare check. Now I hear that tennicare is being opened up to people from another state, it just does not seem right.
Need to investigate the practices of Union County Jail and Court System. Namely denial of medical care for inmates and timely trial dates as per Speedy Trial Act of 1974.
I know a public official, Lt. State Trooper, who has recently used the N_____ word. I don't think he meets ethical standards and should not be allowed to represent the State Troopers. I am still pondering whether to contact the NAACP.
Police officer/investigators shouldn't be allowed to convince a 18 year old that he is a friend just to trick him into telling things that will take his rights away. Trickery isn't justice. My son was never read his rights nor offered counsel when being questioned. His answers have cost him his rights. We teach them to tell the truth not hang themselves

I believe that the only way to make the ethics better in Tennessee is to change the current State Government. A Governor who is constantly taking from the citizens, such as Medical insurance, their hard-earned income, their rights and giving these to people from other States, deffinatly does not have any morals or ethics.
The recent disclosure by our Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, that a record four hundred and forty complaints this year filed against sitting judges in the state, resulted in only one case of public censure is more dubious than even the State's record on legislative ethics.
Apparently the two professions that of lawyer and politician, the ethics of which are held in such low public esteem, when combined to produce a judge give rise to an otherwise unknown form of virtue.
you should start with the local governments. That is were they learn how to bend the rules and keep bending them when they win higher offices. Not all elected offecials can be bought but they all have a price for themselves and their friends.
Lobbying laws (disclosures) need to be more stringent, there should me emphasis on disclosing conflicts of interest (as a state employee, we recently received a new conflict of interest statement for the employee manual). Personally, I NO confidence in our governmental officials (I hate to say this).
Increase penalties, like some serious jail time. Eliminate lobbying at all levels. Find ways for unwealthy but qualified candidates to seek public office. Governments around the world, including the U.S., are run by the wealthy. We have plutocracies...not democracies. Whatever happened to the "public good"? Did it ever exist???
The Chairman of the Board of Probation and Parole, Charles Trauberis unethical and so is Gary Tullock who has been promoted to Director. These people have violated Tennessee hiring policies and have gotten away with it. They are ruthless in their practices and violate peoples civil rights. You should investigate them.
I am very cynical about ethics in TN state government. It has been, over the years, one of the most corrupt state governments in all the U.S. I really do not believe the state legislature wants to make many changes. There are just too many pockets open to receive handouts. I hope I am wrong, but I have grave doubts.
money controls everything? THE CITY OF BRADFORD TENNESSEE NEEDS HELP WITH RULES AND ETHICS:
TN needs an independent commission to monitor and oversee the activities related to lobbying and the legislative process.
i want to be able to see the money trail. citizens should be able to know who spends what on tryiong to influence the public policy process...if a company or lobbyist is trying to influence public laws that will affect me and my family, we, the citizens, should be able to know the money that flows through them to help do that - at the least.
clean up the system:
no more gifts, meals, travel from lobbyists to legislators.
no more cash contributions.
no contingency fees.
disclose what special interests pay to lobbyists and what lobbyists spend.
Recommend an independent commission. This will be the first step and at least if they are doing their job, the commission can then begin to recommend other changes, if necessary.
Stop the way legislators like Trey Harget can be voting on bills on Friday and go to work for a big drug company on Monday.
Make lobbyists, legislators and all state officials take annual training on ethics laws as well as higher level ethics courses...or make them attend and listen and learn from church
Create an independent commission that is not run or appointed by the legislature themselves.
crack down on lobbyists. i heard that lobbyist in chattanooga... that is excatly why we have to shine the light on them.
We need a independent body to keep an eye on the assembly and the lobbysists. We need them to make

sure cash is not passing hands and that gifts and influence are not peddled. Give this organization the tools to really carry out the job.
Make the lobbyists disclose what they spend and how much they receive from their clients, big business and special interests. Protect the average citizen or at least let us see what we are up against.
Level the playing field for regular citizens.
How can Tre Hargett get away with what he did? Is that legal to be a legislator and then go right into lobbying for high paying special interests? Doesn't seem fair.
Clean house... term limits
I should be able to see how much money companies are putting into the system. I think we need a commission like other states have to make this available.
Enforcement is key - if they break the rules, they should be thrown out or fined heavily. Make the punishment mean something and then it will be a deterrent.
the knoxville news sentinel had a thing where you could enter a persons name and see if they contributed to a campaign and how much. why don't we have anything like that officially in tennessee for campaigns. for individuals and for companies?
Don't let the legislators water down any reform. Don't let them police themselves.
Tenn needs a new independent strong commission with proper resources
Give the registry some more money to do their job and make that a larger independent body to crack down on corruption.
Lobbyists and the people who hire them should open up themselves to the public because they are spending money to affect our lives by passing certain bills or killing certain bills that have an impact on our lives.
there is such a fine line in being unprofessional and unethical, that no-one seems to be able to explain to me that I wish this would be cleared up. People seem to get away with so much because it is so easy to say "well that wasn't very professional, was it?" Please separate the two. Ethic and policies should apply to all businesses no matter how small or large
Thank you Governor Bredesen for being such a wise person to make Tn. a better place to live
I feel like there needs to be a board of people whom speak to ex-employees about what happened in there office. Those are the people who can tell you why turnover is so high.
The legislature, lobbyists and other state officials need to wake up and smell the coffee. We the citizens are fed up and demand more. I want more information about how things are done down there and if that is an inconvenience, sorry.
Please Governor, create some type of independent group that will watch over and enforce new rules and laws regarding ethics.
Lobbyists have agreed to take training on ethics and campaign finance laws. Great!
But I want to know how much they spend, how much their clients pay them and what they are lobbying. Doesn't the average citizen deserve that?
Most people in government are good. They are doing what they do because they want to serve the public.
I would urge you Governor to make sure however that we have some kind of real commission in place that will make sure everyone plays by the same rules. And also this commission can serve to provide guidance and advice.
THE ETHICS OF OUR STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NEEDS TO BE DONE BY A COMMITTEE THAT IS CHOSEN MUCH THE SAME AS A GRAND JURY. WE NEED COMPLETE DISCLOSURE OF ALL ACTIVITIES OF BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE BODY AND THOSE LOBBYING THEM. UNTIL WE HAVE COMPLETE DISCLOSURE AND OPEN DOOR POLICIES WE WILL NOT HAVE TRUST IN THOSE SERVING US THE TAXPAYER. THOSE THAT ARE HONEST IN THEIR DESIRE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF TN. SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS, THOSE THAT HAVE A DIFFERENT AGENDA OF SERVING THEMSELVES AND THEIR FRIENDS WILL HAVE A PROBLEM AND NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE.
Our social security system sets restrictions on the amount of money a person under 65 may earn without penalty. Why not adopt a similar system for our legislatures and lobbyists?



There should be strict limits on the amounts the law makers can accept without STIFF penalties. The penalties should be severe enough to encourage compliance. An independent, outside board should oversee the lobbying activities, campaign finances, disclosure requirements, and enforcement of penalties for ethics violations. The lawmakers should not be allowed to set their own salaries, pensions, benefits, expense accounts, etc. Allowing them to do so is like giving a bank robber the combination to the vault. The majority of lawmakers are interested in ONLY feathering their own nests - at the cost of those they were elected to serve. They have no morals, no shame, and apparently, not much sense. The people of TN should demand the termination of every lawmaker charged with any crime regardless of the severity. Those lawmaker

Governor Bredesen:

Please do not let the General Assembly stand in the way of real, significant reform. This may be one chance in a million to give average Tennesseans a real stake in the process. At the least, let the citizen have easy access to real or perceived influence - where the money comes from and how it is spent trying to influence policy. And don't let the legislature police itself or appoint people to police them. Create a true independent commission. And lastly, require lobbyists to disclose what they are lobbying for or against. Lets air the whole smokey place out.

Governor -

Put in place such harsh penalties that every one will toe the line. Give some authority to an agency that will enforce these harsh penalties and I bet you legislators, lobbyists and your own high level people will pay a heck of a lot more attention to doing in the right thing... or maybe NOT doing anything that is wrong or the perception of wrong.

Open the whole process up like a C-SPAN. No one thought that would have the interest it does.

Outlaw lobbyists from contributing to candidates. Make them report everything they do. Uncover the money that special interests are pouring into things that affect the regular man on the street.

Please stop the lobbyists and special interests from running government. Make them disclose everything.

Dear Governor Bredesen,

You will never 100% solve this problem but your advisory group can go a long way if you make disclosure a bigger deal and give some resources to an independent enforcement body.

I would like for my children to be able to have more access to how government really works.

we'll never fix the problem of cheaters cheating. and everyone just wants to play political games in the end. don't bother wasting time and money.

Make people take a stronger oath when they enter public service - a contract of sorts.

I witnessed the lobbying association speak in front of your advisory panel in Chattanooga. I was appalled at the arrogance and defensive posture. The lobbying representative confirmed every negative image and perception the public has of the "unethical, dirty lobbyist." I argue strongly that what they do is my business because their influence over what gets passed and not directly affects my life and my family's life. So I say to the lobbyists, YES it is my business to know how much you receive from special interests, what you spend on state officials and what you lobby. Talk about not getting it.

Governor, please open up the process.

Thank you.

You quote on Ethics in Government the following - Ethics in Government

"Effective management of state government begins with earning the citizen's trust."

-Governor Bredesen

If you are a man of your words and believe what you say then you should do what is constitutionally called for and allow an election for the vacated seat of Rep. Chris Newton. To have allowed a special election for your crooked cronies in Memphis and to overlook the fact that nearly half this state is divided

politically, then you should honor your ceremonial words and put partisan politics aside and do what is equal and just according to the law of the state. The Republicans deserve equal and fair treatment and to not move swiftly in doing so discredits your office and your word. During the past years you have won the respect and support of many republicans in this state, do not fail yourself in this matter, by failing to act in fairness to ALL. Failing to do so will fail you in earning the citizen's trust. You must act according
ethics, what's that the governor doesn't have any the sick are getting sicker and dying and he wants to talk about trust, the trust you is why they voted you in office and look what you have done to them they have no insurance and no medical supplies so all they have to look forward to is a long drawn out death all due to your view of ethics
But, I think Governor should give more emphasis on Executive Branch since Legislators can be removed by public. The legislators have signed contract with their constituents' citizen for representing them honestly and ethically.
Recently Governors' own staffs have done terrible things such as sexual misbehavior, misuse of their official power, etc.
The commissioners and their assistants, directors and managers have been losing confidence of employees and citizens.
eliminate campaign contributions from all but individuals and limit the amounts contributed
The Speaker of the House should not be allowed to be married to the top lobbyist. That is a ridiculous situation.
Each legislator should have to disclose any monies received from a lobbyist.
The legislature MUST include roll call votes in committee and post any and all votes on any bill on the legislature's website. It is a simple, low or no cost way for the public to follow the votes and support of their particular lawmaker. These committee and sub-committee votes that are used to kill bills must stop. If there is nothing to hide... don't hide it.
Put a limit on campaign contributions from lobbyists;
Set a 1-2 year moratorium on politicians leaving office to become lobbyists;
Neither lobbyists nor members of their family should hold public office;
Establish term limits for all members of the State Assembly.
THE DEPT. OF LABOR NEEDS TO BE CLEANED UP. ALSO I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HOLD OF THE GOVERNOR. I HAVE E-MAILED HIM, I HAVE CALLED HIM TWICE, AND I HAVE SENT HIM A PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE DEPT. OF LABOR. I STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED AN ANSWER.
Governor,  I would like to be able to vote on term limits for state and local positions. Once upon a time, a term of office was about performing community service and how one could make a difference in one's community. Limiting terms to two might help solve our problem.  Thanks for caring and creating the citizen panel. Please get rid of as much abuse as you can and restore the public's confidence in our representatives.
Please post the results of Citizen Advisory Group on Ethics on your web site. Today's paper (News Sentinel, 9/23) had only a very brief summary. Thank you for your efforts to keep special interest lobbyists from running our government.
Thank You
several suggestions. 1) reduce the lag time on reporting campaign contribution disclosures; these should be made available as soon as posted by the Election Registry. 2) do not reduce the minimum campaign contribution amount to less than \$100 (reportable); small donations are a great way to build a grassroots base, but legislative members must have time to do their jobs, and if limits are very small, fundraising may

overshadow this. 3)increase the legislative staff. currently legislative members must rely heavily on lobbyists to provide information needed when considering bills. 4)consider raising salaries for legislative members, to reduce incentives to take money or other items of value from lobbyists. 5)provide "ethical" opinions from the proposed ethics commission for elected officials that seek them. 6)require ethics "training" or certification for those who register and maintain the status of lobbyist in Tennessee.
So simple.Keep the lobbyists from entering Capitol grounds.
Maybe frequent and unannounced inspections of finances.
Governor:
I saw the reports of your advisory group this weekend. Great job they have done. Please make these a part of your proposals.
Thank you.
Have the people in your administration simply comply with the basic tenets of honesty and ethics.
I don't think much will change in reality until we figure out a way to have publically financed elections at all levels of government. I hate to sound so cynical.
I believe that there are some politicians, some of whom, have made comments about ethics, who have themselves been unethical. Some of the decisions these people have made, even before they were elected to office constitute "Official Oppression." I believe that there is a law, a Tennessee Law that addresses the elements of official oppression. One of those elements indicate that if a person acts to deny the rights of others, even when they are employees of this State, even when they are planning to run for office, they have committed the crime of official oppression. I would like to see that law made crystal clear to politicians and legislators. My father was murdered here and several politicians made out like a fat rat while my family continue to suffer. There are other families here who continue to suffer the same as mine. I wrote an ethics complaint dated November 27, 2004 to the Tennessee Legislature. It was addressed to Democratic Representative Jimmy Nafaih (sp). it was a legal document.
I strongly believe that we need some kind of regulation on what our judges can and can not do. I also firmly believe that we should have surprise "audits" on our judicial system to ensure prejudices our not occurring in our court systems, espescially with respect to the child custody. Being a victim of this, I strongly encourage better laws and some sort of committee that oversees decisions by judges, to ensure that judges are using ethics in thier decision making processes, and not decisions based upon whom the judges know. What would be even better would be a legislation that makes "joint custody" a law.
We have a need in Tennessee for open public debate between candidates prior to holding elective office. This method removes the incumbent advantage and allows for the free flow of ideas. Then, it would be up to the general public to take responsibility for electing the candidates, which they have been presented.